



The Voter



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Serving the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda



LWV CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris Speaks in Front of the Supreme Court During Gill v. Whitford Arguments

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Last week, as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Wisconsin redistricting case of *Gill v. Whitford*, League members and staff participated in a rally outside of the high court. LWVUS CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris addressed the crowd saying "[it is high time the court took charge of partisan gerrymandering... because voters should select their elected representatives. Elected representatives should NOT choose their voters.](#)" We expect the Court will have a decision on this case by June 2018. In the meantime, you can read more about the League's position in this case in [our amicus brief](#). The voting rights sign that staff provided at the rally is [now available for download](#).

Voter registration deadlines are approaching in many states. Now is the time to help voters get ready to head to the polls. There are important local elections this fall, and we are still hosting registration events around the country. Encourage voters to use our [online voter registration tool](#) to get registered!

Updates for Membership

by Frann Shermet, LWVNOC President

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, I want to update you on current LWVNOC activities. Our Kickoff luncheon in September was a tremendous success. Everyone enjoyed an excellent lunch, an interesting and engaging speaker, and the Silent Auction. We raised upwards of \$2500, thanks to the organizing skills of Deborah Vagts and Patti Chikahisa, and a grand time was had by all.

Our annual audit has been completed and indicated compliance in all areas. Kudos to Fran Mathews, who volunteered her time to do the audit, and to our Treasurer Marilyn Buchi, who keeps a tight set of books.

Updates on activities in our four Focus Areas:

1. Civic Discourse

This item becomes even more important, given the current political climate, and it has a great influence on the culture of our country. Many of our members attended a training seminar offered by the San Diego League in September. We hope to provide similar training to our league in the very near future.

2. Homelessness and Housing

Under the direction of our Special Projects Director Jennifer Trafford, we are planning a tour of the Illumination Foundation facilities for the homeless in Orange County. Also the Illumination Foundation Director Paul Leon will be a featured speaker at a future Lunch With League.

3. Voting Rights

We are currently preparing a letter to the Orange County Board of Supervisors to request that they promote public discussions addressing the need for **voting centers** as part of our efforts to insure that everyone has the ability and opportunity to vote.

4. Education

Our ongoing commitment to education will continue through research, seminars, and other opportunities to enrich the knowledge of our membership.

We continue to involve our newest members and are planning another New Member Orientation prior to Lunch With League in February. Team leaders will discuss their areas of expertise and how members both new and seasoned can participate. Plan to attend and give us your input.

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Holiday Party will be held on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**, from 1:30 to 4:30, at the home of Sue Fisher. It will be a potluck and BYOB. More information to follow.

Please make sure to open your emails from us, read **The Voter**, and attend Lunch With League. Also, check out our website www.lwvnoc.org for information about all our League activities and lots more. If you wish to contact us, just click on the "Contacts" button on the website homepage. You will find our League phone number and email addresses for our officers and directors.

Can We Use Paypal? by Jim Hill, Voter editor

We need to decide if we want to raise membership dues to pay for a Paypal account that would allow members to pay for membership, Lunch with League, etc. through Paypal. An individual membership in LWVNOC currently costs \$65. Of that amount \$31 goes to LWVUS, \$25.50 goes to LWVC, and we keep only \$8.50 here at home. The cost of the Paypal convenience is still to be determined.

Citizens' Climate Lobby: Lowering CO2 and Protecting Our Climate

by Fran Mathews

Burning fossil fuels increases atmospheric CO2 resulting in increases in global temperatures and extreme weather. The goal of Citizen's Climate Lobby is to maintain a livable climate by decreasing CO2 emissions. CCL works to create the political will for reducing carbon emissions by several tried and true methods: lobbying, media, grassroots outreach, "grasstops" outreach, and chapter development. Through these avenues, CCL brings people into the political process and ensures their contribution is effective. CCL has been in existence for only about 10 years; it now has chapters in every state, nearly every congressional district, and in many other countries. Its members have held thousands of lobbying meetings in Washington and have written thousands of letters to congresspersons. Its members have published nearly three thousand letters to the editor so far this year. Members have had an outreach in numerous public events, including the recent Republican convention.

Citizen's Climate Lobby works to lower carbon emissions by the mechanism called "Carbon Fee and Dividend." This market-based approach is the simplest, most transparent and direct solution to our climate problem. In this approach the "Carbon Fee" would be a charge at the mine or wellhead, or when an imported product enters the economy. The money would be collected by the Treasury Department and returned to each household equally as a "Dividend." People naturally use less of something if it costs more, thus lowering our use of fossil fuels. They would be protected from rising fuel costs by the dividend that could be paid out monthly. Citizens' Climate Lobby proposes that the fee start at \$15 per ton of CO2 released and that it be increased annually by \$10 per ton.

What effect would this have on the economy? In 2013, CCL commissioned an independent study of the economics of this proposal (REMI, Regional Economic Models, Inc.). Their study concluded that in 20 years CO2 release would be halved, 2.8 million jobs would be created above baseline, and 230,000 deaths due to air pollution would be avoided. Carbon fee and dividend would also inject billions into the economy, protect family budgets, free households to make independent choices about their energy usage, spur innovation and build demand for low-carbon products at the consumer level.

Although our Republican congress currently denies climate change, there is still growing awareness. In 2016 one Democratic and one Republican congressman started a "Climate Solutions Caucus" to explore solutions. Their group has expanded to 60 members, equally Republican and Democrat. Representative Royce recently joined the group. Prominent Republicans, including Fred Baker and George Schultz have called for a carbon fee and dividend.

It is true that for any major social change it can seem, for years, that nothing was happening even when thousands of people worked to advance those causes. Then, suddenly, something can shift and the change happens. This happened for women's suffrage and other major social changes. It may be about to happen for lowering fossil fuel use.

An alternative approach to lowering CO2 is cap and trade, currently used in California and some states in eastern US. In this approach CO2 is "capped" at a certain level and a trading market is established whereby companies can buy permits to release a certain amount of CO2. Cap and trade has the advantage that a set amount of CO2 is proscribed, and this limit can be lowered over time, but there are problems. It requires a rather large bureaucracy, requires sometimes dubious trading of carbon credits and offsets and may also have "leakage" whereby companies simply move out of state but continue to emit CO2. Carbon fee and dividend is much simpler and does not require creation of a large bureaucracy.

Civility at Thanksgiving

During the time before, during, and after Thanksgiving of 2017, the **National Institute for Civil Discourse** is inviting people from all over the country to take part in NICD's Initiative to Revive Civility and help "Set the Table for Civility." NICD and more than 80 national and local partner organizations are urging Americans to make a special effort during the Thanksgiving season to do two things: First, pause and reflect on the need to heal the divisions in our country; and second, take some action to help increase civility and respect between our fellow citizens.

NICD will create simple "discussion guides" which focuses on three basic questions that people will be invited to discuss:

- What are you most thankful for about living in America?
- How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?
- What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to work together?

A particular goal will be to get Americans of different points of view to talk together and, most importantly, listen to each other. These discussions can take place either in pairs, in small groups of friends, within families or in organizations or institutions. Most discussions will probably be about half an hour in length although some may be slightly longer or shorter. In addition to the "discussion guides," NICD will suggest several activities that are easy for individuals and groups to do during this time period. There will be things that can be done on the days before and after Thanksgiving as well as suggestions for activities around the dinner table on Thanksgiving Day. [Click here for the discussion guides and activities.](#)

The Orange County Grand Jury Needs You!

by Wanda Shaffer

If you would like to make a difference and promote sound government, apply by January 26, 2018 to serve on the Orange County Grand Jury. You will have the opportunity to make a positive impact!

The major functions of the Grand Jury are divided into criminal indictments and civil investigations. While both functions are executed by the same panel in Orange County, the civil investigation portion requires the majority of time.

The Grand Jury is a full-time job, for one full year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), and sure to be one of your most interesting years ever. The Courts are looking for a diversified panel, in age and ethnic backgrounds. Get [more information](#) and apply today!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Promote Sound Government!

SERVE ON THE 2018-2019
Orange County Grand Jury

Application & Information: www.ocgrandjury.org
657-622-6747

Qualifications:
O.C. Resident • U.S. Citizen • 18 or Older • Knowledge of English • Sound Judgment

Apply by January 26, 2018

The poster features the Orange County seal on the left and right. Below the main text, there are four small images: a police car, a group of people standing outdoors, a group of people in high-visibility vests, and a group of people in formal attire.

Read With League by Penny Brown

At our November meeting, November 14th at 1:00 pm we will be reading **Presidential Courage; Leaders and How They Changed America 1789-1989** by Michael R. Beschloss. Beschloss outlines how several occupants of the Oval Office—including Jackson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, FDR, Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan combined courage with wisdom to change the future of the country, notwithstanding the slings and arrows they earned. This book gives insight into the make-up of various past presidents, and may give context to the enormity of the job facing any president. We will gather at the home of Satya Khouri; the discussion will be led by Barbara Dusheath.

We will not meet in December – too many other commitments. Our January meeting will be our 5th Annual Holiday Party and “Book Exchange.” At this meeting we will also choose the titles for February through June. As always, we welcome new members.

For more information, contact Penny Brown 714-828-4668 or libraryPRB@aol.com

Tributes

Tributes can honor a person for an exceptional event, help to observe a special occasion, salute to a deserving friend or a colleague, or serve as a memorial for a love one. For publication in the Voter, send tributes along with a check to the LWVNOC Ed Fund, Marguerite Lyon, Tribute Coordinator, P.O.Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834. For more information call Marguerite at (562)431-0371 or visit our website at www.lwvnoc.org



“A Tribute to Anita and Richard Larsen in loving memory of their daughter, Laura, from all of your friends in Read With League.”

The Importance of Career and Technical Education

by Paula Ames

All who attended the October 26th luncheon appreciated hearing a brief history of CTE, and learned how helpful the ACTE (Association for Career and Technical Education) is for students, faculty, and the various school districts in north Orange County. Ms Giamarino answered several questions and incorporated the North Orange County ROP programs into her discussion. It was a very informative lecture.



Theresa M. Giamarino discussed at length Technical Education in the school system.

Dispatches from Houston, part two by Sue Fisher

LWVNOC member Sue Fisher, a trained disaster responder, recounts her experiences helping out after Hurricane Harvey.

On Sundays in Texas the Red Cross is not allowed to start operations for deliveries to neighborhoods until after 10 am. This really is the bible belt here. In some neighborhoods, there are literally churches on every block, some just little houses with a church sign out front. As much as I respect the concept, it is a little frustrating, as it keeps us out of desperately needed areas until almost noon on a day when most people are going to be at home. Well, if there is one thing you learn in disasters, it is be flexible. Whenever I say “Semper Gumby” people look at me funny. Is that a California thing? Or maybe some crazy thing I picked up from Brockie. Whatever...

Today’s mission (yes the individual runs we make are called “missions”) for me and my navigator was for a tiny rural community about an hour south of Houston. THANK GOODNESS for GPS, as there are lots of little roads that hardly look like roads, but eventually take you to your destination. I envision those heavenly Thomas Guides helping people find these places years ago — and probably doing just fine. Maybe I am just spoiled today with navigation voices on our phones.

This mission took us to a community center. This is somewhat unusual as often “distribution centers” are nearly always churches. This however was just a little community center turned help center for people in this rural area. Everyone seemed to know everyone, and everyone had some story about what got flooded. I also noted that in these community distribution centers that they have always been run by a group of women. Some are these little sprites of bundled up energy with that “can do” attitude and ability to lift and move cases of water or bleach like a person twice their size. They are probably the glue in normal times and the “super glue” in times of need. It’s amazing to witness the strength of their characters and the enormous generosity of their hearts.

Day 14. My last day as a Red Cross Volunteer for Hurricane Harvey. Fourteen days don’t really seem like a long time and certainly aren’t for those who are unaffected by an event, especially the life changing ones like this wide-spread disaster. However, it really did seem like a long time. When one is deployed on missions like this, normal time really does stop. I hardly looked at news or read a newspaper. I just got up early, went to work, came back exhausted, ate, and then went to bed. You really do get absorbed in what you are doing here. You see it, right in front of you, and you understand that people are hurting and that many are depending on what you can do to help them.

On this day, no missions were going out as we were setting up our new warehouse facilities. And it was all hands on deck. Setting up computers, desks, whiteboards. Moving palettes of supplies, organizing the flow of trucks and workers. Like an army of ants busily setting up their new home. Several of us had come to the end of our deployment, and we were the “old experienced ones,” who could generally put things in place with little direction. We spied about a dozen new recruits coming in the door and couldn’t resist a smile. Soon, they would be learning the routes, the routine, remembering to put on bug spray and figuring out Houston’s round-about freeway system. Soon, they too would be coming face to face with those affected by the wrath of over four feet of rain in a 100-mile flood plain. And, like me, they too would feel the sadness and satisfaction of that interaction and thank organizations like the Red Cross for letting us stop and help, if only for 14 days. If only a little.

League of Women Voters California

by Helen Hutchison, President, LWVC

The 2017 California legislative session is a wrap, and thanks to you, we have new laws addressing many of the critical issues we face in California. **Because so many of you took action, we're celebrating major legislative victories:**

- The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.
- The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.
- Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.
- Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.
- The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots—a critical step in ensuring all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many action alerts we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. **This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk!** California now has 27 new League-approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.

Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.

Thank you again for speaking up!



Helen Hutchison
President, LWVC

Membership News

by Sharon Sorensen and Sue Fisher, Membership Directors

We are halfway through this year's membership drive. Let us know if you need brochures/applications or if you have any questions. If you received a 2018 renewal notice and haven't had a chance to submit your dues, please do so. If you've already paid, thank you! We are required to report our membership total to the state and national League.

Over the past few months we have welcomed several new members, if you see them at an event, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome! Our newest members are: **Fay Colmar, Susana Delgado, Kristina Fruneaux, Rita Grahovec, Lyn Liby, and Barbara Thompson.**

A new member orientation is being planned immediately before Lunch with League in February 2018 to provide an overview of the League of Women Voters of North Orange County. Presentations will be made by various Team Leaders, plus reports will be presented on our four focus areas: Voting Issues, Civil Engagement, Education and Housing/Homelessness. All members are welcome to attend this very informative meeting before the luncheon.

LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President Frann Shermet
 Vice-President Deborah Vagts
 Secretary Karen Hill
 Treasurer Marilyn Buchi
 Past President Jan Wagner

Voter Editor Jim Hill
 Co-Publicity Carol Bittle
 Lyn Liby
 Ed Smith
 Web Master Wanda Shaffer
 Observer Corps Jennifer Trafford
 Special Projects Marguerite Lyon
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 Nominating Comm. Barbara Orosz

Speakers Pearl Mann
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**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2017 - 2018**

Name(s) of Member(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Individual member	\$65.00	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	New member <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	New member <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____		
Student member	\$32.50	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	New member <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____		
Additional donation to League (To cover our operating expenses, etc.):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Donation to Educational Fund (Separate tax-deductible donation):						
	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	other	\$ _____
Total enclosed (Make checks payable to LWVNOC.) Thank you.					\$ _____	

How can you serve the League? How can the League serve you?

Please complete this member survey. Circle your choices or fill in the blanks.

Our areas of emphasis this year are: **Voting Issues, Civic Engagement, Education, and Housing and Homelessness.**

I am interested in working on: _____

I would also be willing to work on special events and other League projects. Yes No

I have special skills (for example: graphic art, computers): _____

I am currently: Working Retired My job/profession: _____

I prefer to attend League events: During the day In the evening Weekdays Weekends

Suggestion for an activity or speaker: _____

I wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation, but I am currently unable to participate in League events. Yes No

Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with your check to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

For Treasurer's Use Only: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date: _____