



The Voter

714-254-7440
P.O. Box 3073
Fullerton, CA 92834
www.lwvnoc.org

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

Dear NOC Leaguers:

As 2017 comes to a close, we are grateful for the opportunity to reflect on what has been a remarkable year. While the national discourse has focused on our differences, it is important to focus on what unites us behind our common identity as citizens.

LWVNOC is composed of individuals from all walks of life, and one of the hallmarks of our great society is the collective desire to give back and to serve the common good. As your President and Vice-President, we are privileged to work with you on that goal.

Not only does your volunteer service contribute to our communities, but it also creates areas that make ample use of your abilities. For many of our members, League presents a newly discovered and much needed activity in their lives.

As we make decisions about the future, we hope that you will continue with the enthusiasm evidenced by your commitment to our four focus areas and generously resolve to give of your time and talents to positively impact our communities.

With our Very Best Wishes for a Happy New Year, Frann and Deborah



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Message from Chris Carson, President LWVUS

As we close out 2017, let's recognize the great elections work we all accomplished this year! From registering and educating voters, to holding candidate debates and forums, to asking candidates important questions in our voters' guides; this was anything but an "off-year" for the League.

Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of Leagues working in concert with LWVEF, we helped register, educate and mobilize over 1.1 million voters via [VOTE411](#) in 2017 – a record-breaking non-federal election year for us, representing a whopping 100% increase in users over the last comparable election year (2015). The site provided hundreds of local League voters' guides, information about debates and forums and much more. On General Election day, November 7, over 7,100 races and nearly 13,000 candidates were listed on VOTE411.

With more and more voters looking for candidate and election information online, we have seen an increase in organizations and websites claiming to offer similar information as VOTE411. These new groups know that the League is the leader in this field and they may reach out to your state or local Leagues to ask for help supporting their product. If you hear from any of these groups, please let LWVEF (Megan Brown – mbrown@lwv.org) know. It is not always in our best interest to partner with these groups, as they are direct competition in a field we've been a leader of for nearly 100 years. The best way we can elevate the League, preserve our reputation, and help the most voters, is by supporting the growth of VOTE411 as our premiere nationwide voter education resource.

To that end, if you'd like to join the growing number of Leagues signing up to create an online voters' guide on VOTE411 in 2018, or if you have any questions about [VOTE411.org](#), please contact Megan Brown (mbrown@lwv.org).

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We'll see you in 2018.

Ballot Measure Filed to Fund Schools by Closing Corporate Tax Loophole

From League of Women Voters of California

December 15, 2017

Our broad grassroots coalition including PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California and Evolve California announced the filing of a ballot initiative to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses. Through filing this initiative the coalition is beginning to take the necessary steps for exploration of a possible 2018 ballot initiative.

The measure, called **"The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018"**, will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services. California communities are chronically underfunded, which has hurt our public schools and students the most in addition to cutting essential funding from emergency responder services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 would help California restore billions of dollars of funding that has been cut from our schools by closing a loophole in Proposition 13 that allows millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations to avoid billions in taxes. In addition, the proposed measure would eliminate the tax on fixtures and equipment for small businesses, and preserve all protections in Proposition 13 that currently exist for homeowners, residential renters, and farms.

Lunch with League by Marge Imbler

January is a wonderful month to make new resolutions. One resolution should be to attend a Lunch with League function. There will always be an interesting speaker, engaging people to talk with, and delicious food. That is well worth coming every month!

This month we will be gathering on Thursday, January 25th at Los Coyotes Country Club, 1440 E Bastanchury Rd. in Fullerton. Lunch is served starting at 11:30. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

One of our areas of activism this year is homelessness. Our speaker this month is Paul M. Leon, RN, BSN, PHN. As a public health nurse with the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Paul spearheaded a unique program to bring health access and wraparound services to the underserved homeless population of Orange County.

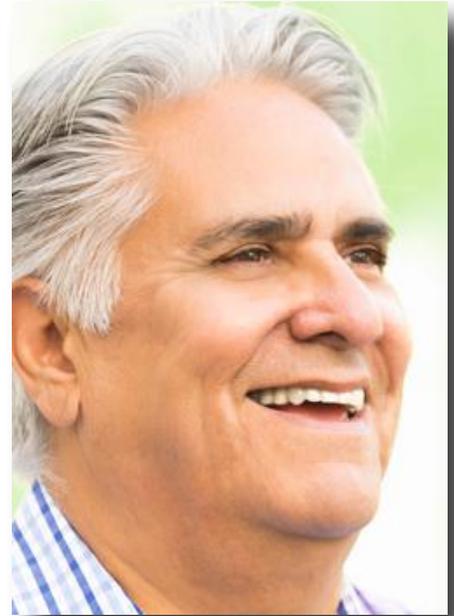
Now Paul is the CEO & Founder of the Illumination Foundation (IF), a grassroots non-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness. The Illumination Foundation provides stable housing and wrap-around services to homeless families through their programs. Paul also pioneered IF's Recuperative Care Program to manage the discharge of homeless patients from hospitals.

On a national level, Paul has served as a speaker and consultant for pioneering innovative funding methods for recuperative care with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) across the country and Puerto Rico.

Reservations: email us at lunchwithleague@lwvnocl.org prior to 10:00 on Tues., Jan. 23rd. For more information, please check our website, www.lwvnoc.org or call us at 714-254-7440.

Please remember our guidelines:

- 1) Los Coyotes requires our reservation counts by 10:00 AM on the Tuesday before the luncheon.
- 2) No reservations or cancellations can be accepted after the above time.
- 3) Any mail-in reservation must be accepted by the Monday before the lunch.
- 4) A reservation made is a reservation paid. This includes late cancellations.



Paul M. Leon





Challenges for Post-Secondary Education

by Jan Wagner

Two of our focus areas are Education and Civil Discourse/Civic Engagement. Our board is considering ways to engage our communities in looking into the many issues surrounding the options, opportunities, costs and imperatives in post-secondary education.

Does every young person today truly need the equivalent of at least a Bachelor's degree? Alternately, what about well-paying technical jobs or trades, and how are those skills acquired? At what cost?

What is driving the rapid rise in the cost of a college education? Students complain that they pay salary, retirement, and benefit costs for teachers that they will never attain. They also note that our state used to fund post-secondary education through tax dollars at a rate that made it almost free to their parents and grandparents. Now those same people are voting to cut taxes and leaving students in the lurch. Parents see universities with amenities that seem unnecessary, or unnecessarily expensive, and faculty that is paid to publish rather than teach. Parents of very young children just worry that the costs will be so high by the time their children finish high school, that saving for college is simply impossible.

Certainly, since the passage of Proposition 13, California has struggled to adequately fund K-12 education, and has fallen woefully short of its grand design to fund a world-class public higher education system. Should we change parts of Proposition 13 or enact some other tax changes to fund education the way we did before? Some feel that the availability of government loans has flooded the system with money, inadvertently fueling the rise in costs, benefits and amenities. Others feel that without government loans, veterans, middle class, and poor families could never afford a post-secondary education.

Is online education the answer? How does one ensure a quality online program? What about all the horror stories we hear about expensive for-profit colleges that advertise heavily? Are online programs through public institutions any better or less expensive?

What about the issue of student debt? Student loan debt in the United States is about \$1.5 trillion, with a default rate surpassing 40%. It is the largest category of non-housing consumer debt in our nation. Do we take the position that people are simply responsible for the debts they incur and must pay them? Do we offer tax breaks or income-adjusted payment plans for government loans? Should there be loan forgiveness programs for certain types of work that provide a benefit to the country or underserved communities?

Is tuition-free post-secondary education realistic?

These questions are just opening thoughts as we delve into this issue. We will be looking for partners, opinion leaders, and experts to help us engage our community in an informed and inclusive look at this complex issue. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at janwagner@me.com. I'd love to hear from you!

LWVNOC

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

January

10 Wednesday
10:00 - 12:00

Executive Board Meeting

At the home of Deborah Vagts, located at 1291 S. Carl Lane in Anaheim 92806

17 Wednesday
10:00 - 12:00

Board Meeting

Fullerton Joint Union School District Office at 1440 W. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton 92831.

25 Thursday
11:00 - 1:00

Lunch with League

At **Coyote Hills Golf Course**, located at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton, 92831. Our speaker is Paul Leon. As a Public Health Nurse with the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Mr. Leon spearheaded a unique program to bring health access and wrap-around services to the underserved homeless population in Orange County. He is CEO and founder of the Illumination Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness.

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 Paula Ames, Marguerite Lyon, Lucina Moses, Frann Shermet, and Jerry Young.

LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

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

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 Co-Publicity Carol Bittle
 Lyn Liby
 Ed Smith
 Web Master Wanda Shaffer
 Observer Corps Jennifer Trafford
 Special Projects Marguerite Lyon
 Excursions Marge Imbler
 Nominating Comm. Barbara Orosz

Speakers Pearl Mann
 Student Outreach Jodi Balma
 Facebook Jodi Balma

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 Lunch w/ League Marge Imbler
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 Linda Lockwood

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 Tributes Marguerite Lyon
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 League Mail Box Marilyn Buchi
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 Fullerton Eileen Moore
 La Habra
 La Palma
 Placentia
 Yorba Linda
 OC BOS Wanda Shaffer
 Carol Bittle



**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 ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
Student member	\$32.50	Renewal ___	New member ___	\$ _____		
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 (<i>Make checks payable to LWVNOC.</i>) 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: _____



League of Women Voters

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