



The Voter



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2018 Chicago LWV Convention Highlights

Convention delegates worked on several important business items while in Chicago, some of which are highlighted here. Delegates approved the proposed program of Making Democracy Work®, which includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting. Delegates voted to add advocating for the National Popular Vote Compact under the Improving Elections section of the Campaign. Delegates also voted for LWVUS to prioritize advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to be added to the U. S. Constitution.

Convention delegates adopted the LWVUS budget for the 2018-2020 biennium. The Per Member Payment (PMP) rate will remain unchanged for the biennium.

By acclamation, Convention delegates voted to elect the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of new officers, board members, nominating committee chair and nominating committee members for the 2018-2020 biennium.

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LWV National Convention in Chicago

Report on seminars, workshops, and sessions by Sharon Sorensen

1. Seminar Training on Developing and Mobilizing Skills to Win in 2018

Wellstone Action partnered with the LWV to provide training on how to use a range of mobilizing tools for long term organizing work in their communities. The "win" referred to in the title can be whatever it is you're trying to achieve, e.g., promoting the importance of voting. Organizing and mobilizing are both tools that can be used. Organizing is all about building intentional public relationships to get people to take a collective action. An organizer connects with people, builds relationships, builds trust, and understands what moves people.

Motivating deals more with tapping into people's values, which may be a better motivator on any particular issue, which has been shown to increase impact. It was suggested that the League could partner with groups we want to collaborate with, telling them we need them or that we need their impact. It was also suggested to utilize certain community agreements, aka ground rules, that could be used to get to know each other, such as:

Respect each other.

Welcome all experiences into the space.

Engage in a way that works for you.

Embrace principles of diplomacy.

Share (but you can always pass).

An interactive activity using a sample script demonstrating what this might look like was conducted.

2. Transformation Journey Info Session

Q&A only. There were a lot of questions about how the League might change over the next millennium as a result of the LWV's strategic planning study, called the Transformation Roadmap. This plan was funded by a bipartisan foundation with cooperation from state and local leagues. It was mentioned that a webinar on the Transformation Roadmap was conducted in June and is currently available on the LWVUS League Management page. This was also the subject of Plenary session discussions.

3. Building League Leadership for the Future

This was an interactive session that explored how to create a culture that values inclusion, flexible leadership and open communication. In order to connect with new members, leadership needs to be warm and welcoming, as opposed to an authoritative style that stresses "the League way." We were asked to think about which kind of Board we have. Examples of both were provided during the opening remarks of the session. It was stressed that change can only start with yourself. We need to determine whether someone fundamentally agrees or disagrees with our ideas by being open to new ideas, while also exploring the pitfalls. An exercise on what a "Yes, but" (negative) dialogue vs. a "Yes, and" (positive) dialogue about a new idea would look like. When working with members, try to determine whether they want/need direction or do they want to be left alone. Do they want frequent interaction or just occasional. For more information download resources at <https://tinyurl.com/lwvfutureleaders>. It was explained that they used a 2-week training to develop this 45 minute session, which is the reason for the additional resources.

[See **Convention** on the next page.]

Convention from previous page

4. The Time for the ERA is Now.

A short 30-minute film by Heroica Foundation & Equalmeansequal.org entitled "Legalize Equality" was shown that gives a history of the Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment that says "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This video is meant to be a call to action and makes a strong legal and economical argument for why completing the ERA is critical. With Illinois' recent ratification of the ERA, only one more state is needed to achieve the two thirds state approval needed in order to ratify the amendment. A copy of the dvd was obtained to share with the members of the League, if desired.

5. Voter Girl Project Teams Up LWV & Girl Scouts.

I only caught the tail end of this session and so only obtained the Voter Girl Project handout. Deborah Vagts describes the project in the next article on this page.

Voter Girl Project Workshop by Deborah Vagts

Frann and I went to a workshop presented by LWV Kent, Ohio, called the "Voter Girl Project." LWV Kent partners with the Girl Scouts of North-East Ohio to provide workshops so that scouts, including Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors, can earn citizenship badges. The workshops are held on Saturdays at local schools.

The League, in partnership with their local Girl Scout Council, offers a one-day class for all scout levels with a curriculum appropriate for each level. League members provide instruction about citizenship, voting, and leadership. The Registrar of Voters sets up a voting booth at the workshop and age appropriate instruction is offered on how to vote.

The Girl Scout Council is responsible to register the scouts for this event. To cover the cost of materials, there is a \$10 fee to participate. In addition to receiving their Girl Scout citizenship badge, the girls also receive a Voter Girl patch from the League.

A curriculum guide for the workshop was developed by teachers and communicators with backgrounds in diversity and elementary and higher education. LWV Kent has licensed their curriculum and sells it for \$150. All of the materials needed to implement this project, including the curriculum, logos, artwork for the patch and tips for running the event, are included. LWV Kent says that their workshops are high profile community events that draw interest from the media, parents, and public officials.

We were very impressed with this project as it is an excellent way to reach youth from elementary school through high school and teach them about voting, how government works, civic responsibility, finding common ground, and civil dialogue. LWV Kent also brings voter registration materials and LWV brochures to the event to distribute to the parents, which offers an opportunity to register new voters and recruit new League members. We believe that this would be a very worthwhile project for LWVNOC to consider implementing in the near future.

President's Message

by Frann Shermet, President LWVNOC

Dear NOC Leaguers:

It is with great delight that I continue my second year as President of LWVNOC. After my first year, I want to share with all of you my gratitude for the continued commitment from the Board of Directors and other members who support the organization.

LWVNOC has continued to evolve and grow stronger largely due to the efforts of both the Board and our thriving membership base. Our membership is strong and our events are well attended.

We are delivering on our core values and focus areas. We can always do more and look forward to that challenge in the coming year.

My devoted Vice President Deborah Vagts and I look forward to another exciting and productive year with all of our members. We hope that you will consider taking a position of importance within our League community and continue to attend Lunch With League, Read With League, Kickoff, Strategic Planning and many of the events we have planned for the coming year.

Attending any of the events or serving on a team are great opportunities to get to know your fellow Leaguers and stay current with updates and changes in all areas of League. Please remember that all meetings are open and transparent. You are welcome to attend at any time, and we look forward to seeing you.

With our collective dedication, we can advance the goals of LWVNOC and remain at the forefront of our communities.



Membership News

by Sharon Sorensen and Sue Fisher

Wow, League is growing! Over the past three months, we have had a number of new members join the League. In addition, we are happy to have several students join following the Civil Discourse event recently held at Fullerton College. So, if you see a new face at an event be sure to take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself. A New Member Orientation Meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on August 23rd, before the Strategic Planning Retreat and Lunch. Also, don't forget to ask a friend to join you when making your reservation for this year's Annual Kick-Off meeting and Silent Auction on September 15th at Black Gold Golf Course. This is not only our only fund raiser for the year, it's also a great opportunity for recruiting new members. Please help us in welcoming our newest members to the North Orange County League:

Lana Abdallat
Betsy Austin
Vanessa Blanco
May Alice Blaydes
Allyce Flores
Donnette Guiltinan
Daniel Herrera-Garcia

Sarah Hill
Nancy Holmes
Joshua Kazarian
Harut Kejejyan
John Kobular
Ellyce Liby
Leilamarie Majd-Faridi

Cassandra Martinez
Nora Matti
Sherlan Neblett
Oscar Osoria
Nicole Spicer
Teresa Velazquez

Read with League

by Penny Brown

On Tuesday, July 10th, a good time was had by all RWL members (well, certainly by me!) at our Un-birthday Party. Barbara Dunsheath, always a gracious host, provided tasty sangria, yummy lemon cake, and warm hospitality. The food provided by all the rest of us was varied and delicious.

In addition to eating, drinking, and visiting, we also had our book “exchange” (very decorous this time!!) and chose the titles for our upcoming meetings. We chose titles for September, October, November, January, and February. Normally we don’t chose a title for the holiday party in January, but there were so many good selections (and the book is *very short* – 136pp!!) that we made an exception. Below is the schedule for August and those five months:

Tuesday, August 14th, at 1:00pm, **Astrophysics For People in a Hurry** by Neil de Grasse Tyson -- reviewed by Ed Smith, hosted by Penny Brown.

Tuesday, September 11th, at 1:00pm, **The Catcher Was a Spy; the Mysterious Life of Moe Berg** by Nicholas Dawidoff – reviewed by Lois Smith, hosted by Frann Shermet.

Tuesday, October 9th, at 1:00pm, **Democracy In Chains; the Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan For America** by Nancy MacLean – reviewed by Jim Hill. hosted by Jim and Karen Hill.

Tuesday, November 13th, at 1:00pm, **The Death and Life of the Great Lakes** by Dan Egan – reviewed by Kay Bruce, hosted by Kay and Mal Bruce.

Tuesday, January 8th, *at 12:30pm*, (6th Annual Holiday Party and Book Exchange) – **The Origin of Others** by Toni Morrison – reviewed by Penny Brown, hosted by Penny Brown.

Tuesday, February 12th, at 1:00pm. **The Soul of America; Battle for Our Better Angels** by Jon Meacham – reviewed by Barbara Dunsheath, hosted by Deborah Vagts.

We are a very congenial group, and we welcome new members. For more information, contact Penny Brown LibraryPRB@aol.com or 714-828-4668.



AUGUST

14 Tuesday 1:00 pm	Read with League	Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil deGrasse Tyson. 224 pages. This book reveals just what you need to be fluent and ready for the next cosmic headlines, from the Big Bang to black holes, from quarks to quantum mechanics, and from the search for planets to the search for life in the universe. Reviewer: Ed Smith. Host: Deborah Vagts. For more information please contact Penny Brown at (714) 828-4667 or email to LibraryPRB@aol.com .
23 Thursday 9:00 am	New Member Orientation	Coyote Hills Golf Course at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton Information and orientation for new LWVNOOC members
23 Thursday 10:30 am	Board Strategic Planning Retreat and Lunch	Coyote Hills Golf Course at 1440 E. Bastanchury Road in Fullerton

The Board of Supervisors Report

by Wanda Shaffer

Whoa, it was a “hot and heavy” June and July at the BOS! A final annual budget due makes for a difficult and argumentative time, but the fact that four of the five supervisors had their names on the June ballot might also have been a factor.

The ballot box results: Two supervisors ran for a second 4-year BOS term. Supervisor Bartlett was unopposed; Supervisor Steel will be on the Nov. ballot with a large lead from the June primary. Supervisor Spitzer ran for District Attorney and came in second, so he also will be on the Nov. ballot. Supervisor Nelson is termed out and ran for Assembly in the 39th District but did not win one of the top two spots.

THE OFFICE OF AUDITOR/CONTROLLER IS DRASTICALLY CHANGED!!!

Auditor/Controller Eric Woolery asked for a budget of \$19,359,742 plus an augmented \$656,570. The BOS eliminated the augmentation.

They established a separate Internal Audit Dept. and reduced his budget by \$656,570. They will **re-establish the Internal Audit Dept.** (Orange County is currently one of the very few counties that do not have an Office of Auditor/Controller under one hat.) Supervisor Spitzer was the only NO vote.

The Office of Independent Review was established after the death of John Chamberlain in the OC Jail. It was then eliminated on the charge of not adequately reviewing the Sheriff’s Dept. and the District Attorney’s Office. Now funding for the OIR is budgeted, but the restoration of the office is composed of only a secretary and a director, and the **ONLY JOB** of the OIR is to “explore the nexus between law enforcement and social services in addressing the homeless crisis, per work plan submitted by Chairman Do.” Supervisor Spitzer was the only NO vote.

The BOS **Renewed city contracts for law enforcement by the OC Sheriff Dept. instead of a local Police Dept.** These contracts are **only for one year at a time** and once again, Supervisor Nelson was very irate. He asked what the County would do if/when a city decides to leave the OC Sheriff Dept.? “That’s \$133,154,941 for law enforcement personnel and equipment for Yorba Linda, Villa Park, Stanton, San Clemente, Aliso Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, and Mission Viejo.”

An amendment to the Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Mental Health Services Act, Prop 63 programs and services was approved. \$15 million will go for a Special Needs Housing Program Assignment agreement with California Housing Authority. The plan is now a cumulative total of \$583,862,051.

Dear Reader, you can get so much more info on the OC Board of Supervisors by going online at ocgov.com, click on Depts. and then on BOS agenda. Stay tuned.....never a dull moment!

Resources for Voters:

CAVotes

www.cavotes.org

Easy Voter Guide

www.EasyVoterGuide.org

Voter Edge

www.VotersEdge.org/CA

Civil Discourse: An Evening of Political Debate by Jan Wagner

On Thursday evening, July 12, 130 people spent two hours at Fullerton College discussing some of the most vexing issues that face us today. The event was organized by Fullerton College Professor and League member Jodi Balma, Fullerton College Debate Coach Jeff Samano, and the LWVNOC Civil Discourse team. It was sponsored by the Fullerton College Speech and Debate Team and the North Orange County League of Women Voters.

The evening began with a brief welcome from Dr. Greg Schulz, President of Fullerton College, followed by a Frann Shermet, President of LWVNOC. Frann also announced free League membership for all students who wished to join. Her offer was enthusiastically received and many joined LWVNOC.

Students on the Speech and Debate Team had selected and researched the discussion topics. Well prepared with in-depth information and probing questions, the students were excellent table moderators. They also often played devil's advocate if they ended up with a table of people where all agreed. Scribes recorded key points made by all participants. After 45 minutes, each table reviewed their key discussion points to formulate their conclusions or major areas of agreement and disagreement. After a short break for refreshments, each table reported to the whole group - all in a civil manner.

Participants chose to participate in discussions on one of the following topics: Single Payer Health Care, Orange County homeless shelters, Repeal of Gas Tax, California: Sanctuary State, Conceal and Carry Permits, and Living Wage

Discussion rules were simple, but important! Listen with curiosity to understand, not with hostility. Respect all opinions. All voices carry equal weight. Share the time equally; no one dominates. Everyone speaks once before anyone speaks twice.

Organizers were surprised and thrilled by the large attendance and positive feedback from participants. One of the best aspects of the evening was the mix of people involved – an almost equal number of students and active elders, talking and listening to each other. The most frequent comment received was, “We have to do this again!” Indeed, we will.

Ed Smith took video and conducted interviews throughout the evening. Those can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/ny8CnHAP-3Q>. It's about 16 minutes long and just covers highlights. I can provide the longer version, in which the student reports are complete, at a later date as a DVD, if anyone is interested.

Places I've Been

“Deception Pass.” How was it? “It wasn't what I expected.”

“Chagrin Falls.” How was it? “I was sorry I went.”

“Cape Perpetua.” How was it? “It seemed to go on forever.”

“Confusion Hill.” How was it? “I never found it.”

“Cape Foulweather.” How was it? “Whaddya think?”

“Cape Disappointment.” How was it? “Well”



LWVNOC Current Officers and Directors

Officers

President Frann Shermet
 Vice-President Deborah Vagts
 Secretary Kristina Fruneaux
 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 Marge Imbler
 Nominating Comm. Barbara Orosz

Speakers Pearl Mann
 Student Outreach Jodi Balma
 Facebook Lyn Liby
 Kristina Fruneaux

Directors

Action/Advocacy Program Mary Fuhrman
 Development Lunch w/ League Marge Imbler
 Lois Smith
 Co-Membership Sharon Sorensen
 Sue Fisher
 Co-Voter Service Deborah Makin
 Linda Lockwood

Off-Board Directors

Read with League Penny Brown
 Excursions Paula Ames
 Corresp. Secretary Satya Khouri
 League Phone Marilyn Buchi
 League Mail Box Wanda Shaffer

Observers

Anaheim Brea Kristina Fruneaux
 Buena Park Cypress Eileen Moore
 Fullerton La Habra
 La Palma Placentia
 Yorba Linda OC BOS Wanda Shaffer
 Carol Bittle



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
 Membership Form 2018 - 2019**

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	Free	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 (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 am not able to participate in League events but wish to support the work of the League by renewing my membership or by making a donation. 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

P. O. Box 3073

Fullerton, CA 92834