



## Rains Bring Super Bloom to Southern California

by Jim Hill



NBC News reported in the middle of March that after 376 consecutive weeks of drought, California is officially drought free. It's the first time the state has been completely free of drought since Dec. 20, 2011. There was a super bloom after rain in 2017, but drought conditions were still prevalent. This year, however, as a result of numerous storms, years' worth of wildflower seeds have sprouted all at once across the southland, especially in Walker Canyon near Lake Elsinore, in Carrizo Plains National Monument, and in Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

You can visit these phenomenally beautiful places vicariously by visiting YouTube and typing "super bloom 2019" into the search box. I especially recommend "Super Bloom Lake Elsinore." It's interrupted by ads, but it's still a special experience.

And let's never lose sight of what a precious commodity water is. Rainwater in the OC regenerates our aquifer, and snowpack in the Sierra provides Californians with both water and electricity. We know well how important it is, so let's continue to conserve.

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# CONVENTION 2019

**Where: Westin Pasadena Hotel  
191 North Los Robles  
Pasadena, California 91101**

**When: Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2**

**What:** [The 67th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California](#)

**When:** 10 am, Friday, May 31, through 12 pm, Sunday, June 2, 2019, with a special pre-Convention event on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

**Where:** The Westin Pasadena Hotel, 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena, CA 91101, Phone: 626-792-2727

**Who:** Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. **Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!**

**[Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities.](#)**

A range of activities is available to suit any schedule or budget, from investing in a full three-day registration to treating yourself to a special pre-Convention event. Check out your options now—early bird registration continues through April 30.

The Westin Pasadena Hotel is offering a special room rate of \$179 per night—but you must book by April 30 to secure this rate. Visit the Convention website to book online, or you can call the hotel and mention the LWVC Convention. Don't get caught without a room by waiting until the last minute; rooms may sell out before that date!

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**

One of the League's priorities is to [foster a more inclusive culture and increase the diversity of our organization and our leadership](#). To accomplish this, an LWVC Equity Task Force was formed at the 2018 LWV National Convention in Chicago. Our Equity Task Force and LWVC Board have decided to prioritize, at least initially, increasing the racial and age diversity of our Leagues, with plans to expand our work in the near future.

One of our first initiatives is to diversify delegate participation and have a more representative decision-making body at the 2019 LWVC Convention. We encourage your League to consider this when making decisions about delegates.

As part of this effort, the California State Board has set aside a scholarship fund to help reduce barriers for those who would otherwise be unable to attend Convention. If you have members who have a financial hardship to attend convention, please encourage them to apply for a scholarship. We have a limited amount of funding, so we encourage applicants to submit as soon as possible. [We are accepting applications on a rolling basis](#)

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# Lunch With League

 by Marge Imbler

April is a wonderful month to join us for **Lunch with League**. With a plethora of beautiful flowers, green grass, and trees, lunch at Coyote Hills Golf Course should be a pleasant experience among fellow Leaguers. Join us **Thursday, April 25th**, at the Golf Course, 1440 E Bastanchury Rd., Fullerton 92831, at 11:00 a.m. for socializing, and lunch and speaker starting at 11:30 a.m.. The cost is \$20.00. We accept cash, checks, or credit cards.

Our speaker for April is Rachel Otair, **Waste Not OC Manager**. Ms. Otair graduated from CSU Fullerton with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology. She learned the value of personal interactions and connecting all walks of life together to solve issues. She found a passion for the betterment of the community, making a difference, and building a career out of helping others. She worked in the food service industry where she learned not only safe food handling, but also how to create relationships quickly and stay organized and on task to accomplish goals. She also worked for the Anaheim Family YMCA for two years in the Human Resources Department. With years of experience in the food service industry and the knowledge that she gained at the Anaheim Family YMCA, Waste Not OC was a perfect fit. Rachel Otair started at Waste Not OC in November 2016. She plans to assist Waste Not OC as they make a phenomenal impact in the community.



Rachel Otair, Program Manager  
Waste Not OC

## **Reservations:**

Email us at [lunchwithleague@lwnoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwnoc.org) prior to 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, April 23rd**. Calls can also be made to us at 714-254-7440.

## **Guidelines:**

- 1) Los Coyotes requires our reservations count by 10:00 a.m. on the Tuesday before the luncheon.
- 2) No reservations or cancellations can be accepted after the above date.
- 3) A reservation made is a reservation paid. This includes late cancellations.

## **Original Intent**

When it was written, the U.S. Constitution stipulated that each U.S. Representative would represent 30,000 people. The country has grown since the 18th century, and today each Representative represents 700,000 people. If we had stuck with the founders' original intent of 30,000 people each, the House of Representatives would need seating for 10,946 Representatives.

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# OC Board of Supervisors, March 12 and 26

by Wanda Shaffer

AB and SB 448, bills sponsored by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva and Tom Daly aim to help solve OC's homeless problem. They are supported by OC Supervisors John Moorlach, Patricia Bates, Janet Nguyen, and Bob Hertzberg. The OC Supervisors approved the forming of the OC Housing Finance Trust Joint Powers Agreement. The press release states: It will provide and receive funds for homeless and those of extremely low, very low, and low income in OC. The Trust will not regulate land use, own or operate housing units, impose fees, nor approve a housing project or program if the local governing body does not support it. Two Supervisors, two countywide elected officials and five city council members will sit on the governing board. The initial goal is 2,700 supportive housing units and affordable housing units within six years. Funding sources such as Prop. 1, Housing for a Healthy Cal, and Multi-Family Housing Program Supportive Housing reduced the capital gap to \$252 million.

The Board also designated \$70.5 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) money on top of \$25 million No Place Like Home monies already allocated to address this critical priority. As of March 13, the BOS's support for housing has resulted in

funding applications and developer interest for more than 1,000 units of affordable and supportive housing units. Supervisors unanimously voted for this action. However, Supervisor Steel had previously voted against it. She stated, "It's now signed by the Governor, but it's OK. He promised there would be debt involved."

**JUDGE CARTER WILL HOLD A MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 2, ASKING THE 34 OC CITIES MAYORS AND POLICE CHIEFS, CAL OPTIMA, AND LAWYERS FOR THE HOMELESS TO ATTEND.**

The county conducted the POINT IN TIME COUNT in January, 2019. It reported that OC has at least 3,400 homeless sleeping on streets. In 2018, the coroner reported OC had 250 deaths among the homeless. (San Diego had 111)

The recent study "The Condition of Children in OC" reported that Orange County has a higher suicide rate than the average in U.S. counties. The BOS unanimously voted to create **Mind OC**. This is a countywide suicide prevention initiative. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) will give \$600,000 to accomplish this. There is a real need for a school-based crisis response network. Also half of veterans living in OC have no access to mental health care.



**April**

- 9 Tuesday**  
**1:00 pm**

**Read with League**

At the home of Jim and Karen Hill. **How Democracies Die** by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. Reviewed by Jim Hill. For more information please contact Penny Brown at (714) 828- 4668 or at [LibraryPRB@aol.com](mailto:LibraryPRB@aol.com).
- 17 Wednesday**  
**10:00 am**

**Board Meeting**

At North Orange County ROP located at 385 N. Muller Street in Anaheim. The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. All members are welcome.
- 25 Thursday**  
**11:00**

**Lunch with League**

At Coyote Hills Golf Course, located at 1440 Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. Our speaker is Rachel Otair, Program Manager at Waste Not for OC. The cost of lunch is \$20. Email reservations to [lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org).

**May**

- 14 Tuesday**  
**1:00 pm**

**Read with League**

At the home of Mal and Kay Bruce. **That’s What She Said: What Men Need to Know (and Women need to Tell Them) About Working Together** by Loanne Lipman. Reviewed by Satya Khouri. For more information please contact Penny Brown at (714) 828-4668 or at [LibraryPRB@aol.com](mailto:LibraryPRB@aol.com)
- 15 Wednesday**  
**10:00 am**

**Board Meeting**

At North Orange County ROP located at 385 N. Muller Street in Anaheim. The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. All members are welcome.
- 23 Thursday**  
**Time TBD**

**Lunch with League and Annual Meeting**

At Coyote Hills Golf Course, located at 1440 Bastanchury Road in Fullerton. Our speaker is Val Zavala, retired host of “California Connected.” on KCET. The cost of lunch is \$20. Email reservations to [lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org](mailto:lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org).
- 31 Friday thru Sunday**  
**June 2**

**State League Convention**

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work! See the flyer on page 2.





**Join us Saturday, June 22, 11:00am to 3:00pm  
Climate change forum  
for Southern California  
League members!**

- Meet League members from Santa Barbara to San Diego
- Learn what other SoCal Leagues are doing
- Learn about state legislation
- Learn how to collaborate

**Saturday, June 22, 2019,  
11:00am to 3:00pm**

*All Saints Church, Sweetland Hall  
132 N. Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101  
Free parking; lunch included for a small charge*

**Please pass on this invitation to any interested League members and/or include it in your Voter. Flyer attached.**

**RSVP to [climatechange@lwvc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvc.org)**



- Meet League members from Santa Barbara to San Diego
- Learn what other Leagues are doing
- Learn about state legislation
- Learn how you can collaborate

**All League of Women Voters members welcome!**  
Free parking. Lunch available for a small charge.  
**Please RSVP to [climatechange@lwvc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvc.org)**



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# In the Know: League of Women Voters v. Rucho

by Celina Stewart

The *LWVNC v. Rucho* case is a partisan gerrymandering challenge to the North Carolina congressional map. Partisan gerrymandering is the practice of drawing electoral district lines in a way that discriminates against a political party. Arguably, North Carolinians are subject to one of the more challenging partisan gerrymandering plans in the whole country. To be clear, partisan gerrymandering has been happening since before the constitutional convention in the 18th century, and both parties have drawn lines to benefit themselves while in power. As a result, courts have intervened numerous times when the process has gone too far.

*What's the case about?*

As background, the League of Women Voters of North Carolina sued Robert Rucho in his official capacity as Chairman of the NC Senate Redistricting Committee for the congressional redistricting plan adopted in February 2016. The LWVNC challenged the NC congressional map as a violation of the 1st and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, rightly asserting that the plan is an impermissible partisan gerrymander.

*Why is this case important?*

What's interesting about this case is how outright cavalier the Senate Redistricting Committee was in introducing and moving this map. The bravado in doing so perhaps stems from the gutting of several key provisions within the Voting Rights Act post-*Shelby Co. v. Holder* (2013), that would have otherwise protected against any redistricting map that leads to disenfranchising minority voters. A decision in this case, and other partisan gerrymandering cases of this vein, would establish criteria for evaluating whether a partisan gerrymander is unconstitutional.

*What's the status of this case?*

The case began in 2016 and has endured several legal obstacles, but 2018 has been a hotbed of activity that will continue well into the new year: In January, District Court declared the NC congressional map unconstitutional and blocked the state from using the map in future elections. In February, defendants filed an emergency appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) asking the court not to force the state to redraw the congressional map until the court decided on *Gill v. Whitford* and *Benisek v. Lamone*, partisan redistricting cases out of Wisconsin and Maryland, respectively. SCOTUS denied the emergency appeal but allowed for a halting of proceedings until an appeal was filed. In June, *Gill* and *Benisek* decisions are released. SCOTUS vacated and sent *LWVNC v. Rucho* back to the district court for further consideration based upon *Gill*. In August, a three-judge panel issued a [new opinion](#) ruling for the League of Women Voters of North Carolina and that the NC congressional map is a partisan gerrymander in violation of 1st and 14th Amendment. In September, defendants appealed to SCOTUS asserting that both the lower courts have wrongly decided this case and requesting a review by SCOTUS in the 2019 term. A hearing on this case is expected in the coming months.

On January 4, 2019, SCOTUS agreed to hear the League's North Carolina case to determine whether the lower district court decisions were rightly decided. In addition to reviewing the League's case, the court will hear a similar case out of North Carolina filed by Common Cause as well as the *Benisek* case in Maryland. The addition of *Benisek* is significant because the court will review multiple partisan gerrymanders attempted by both GOP and DEM led legislatures. This dynamic will grant the court a level playing field of cases to use when and if the court establishes a standard to determine when partisan gerrymandering goes too far, regardless of which parties control state legislative bodies.

The court will hear these cases combined in March 2019 and decide them before the end of the term In June 2019.

The League is represented by our legal partners, [Southern Coalition for Social Justice](#) and [Campaign Legal Center](#). As mentioned above, this docket is a consolidated matter with *LWVNC v. Rucho*, [Common Cause v. Rucho](#), and now *Benisek v. Lamone*. Stay tuned for more updates about this very interesting and important case as there will be a menu of solutions the court will hear during arguments this Spring; and there just might be a new partisan gerrymandering standard to report when these cases are decided.



Celina Stewart  
Director of Advocacy  
and Litigation, LWVUS

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 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 <input type="checkbox"/>	New member <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____		
Additional household member	\$32.50	Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	New member <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____		
Student member	Free	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 <b>LWVNOC</b> .) 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**