



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

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Dr. Lee Simpson, speaker for Women’s Equality Day event. Paula Lee and Nancy Compton, Co-Presidents 2014-2015, LWVSC. Photo credit- R. Torretto

Events to Stimulate Minds

Monday-Tuesday, September 8-9, 2014, Unit Meetings, Page 6

Voter Service opportunities—contact Holly Smith @ hollysmith77@gmail.com

Tuesday, 9/16, 5:00 -6:30 p.m. CalPERS Auditorium, Room 1190, 4000 Q St. Sacramento

Wednesday, 9/17, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Samurai Sushi Restaurant, 12251 Folsom Blvd, Rancho Cordova. Review of ballot measures. American River Democrats.

Wednesday, 9/24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Assembly District 7 & Senate District 6 candidates’ forum. Canterbury Village, 1900 Canterbury Road, Sacramento

Wednesday, 10/8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. City Council District 3 & Assembly District 7 candidate’s forum. Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra, Sacramento

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**2014-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
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Professor Newland’s Address

At the Annual Meeting, May 3, 2014, Dr. Chester Newland spoke on City Governance and why the LWVSC opposes the ‘Strong Mayor’ proposal. Sacramento’s current Council/Manager Charter allows for input from the people living in Sacramento City and input from the neighborhoods; input goes to the City Council including the Mayor. There are professionally expert City Manager and city services department heads that are responsive to the people. The proposed charter change would be to the “Boss Mayor” in a single winner take-all political system, where the City Manager serves entirely at the Mayor’s will. The Mayor can fire the City Manager at any time, without council input or approval. The Mayor can serve no more than three terms. There are no term limits for city council members. In the discussion, League member and former Mayor, Heather Forgo, mentioned that in the proposed charter, the Mayor is **NOT** required to even attend City Council meetings and thereby is removed from hearing the public’s concerns/questions. In writing this article, Heather Fargo added... "the mayor can veto ordinances approved by the Council, without having heard any public testimony. It is too much power in one person, and weakens the role of neighborhoods and residents as well as council members." League members living in the City of Sacramento are encouraged to vote No on the “Checks and Balances Act” and to follow the LWVSC advocacy in the next few months. by Alice Ginosar

Welcome New Members

**Sarah Deem
Rebecca LeDoux
Sari Leman**

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Events

Saturday, 10/11, 9:00 a.m. –5:30 p.m. Metro Cable taping. Multiple candidate forums. You do not have to be present for the entire day-long event.

Thursday, 10/16, 5:00-7:30 p.m., Assembly District 6 Forum and review of ballot measures. Folsom Lake College, Buckeye Hall, 10 College Parkway.

A Birthday Party for Belle Coolegge – First Female Mayor of Sacramento

Friends of the Belle Coolegge Library hosted a birthday party on July 26 for Sacramento’s first female mayor, Belle Coolegge, celebrating her 130th birthday this year. Among invited guests were Sacramento’s second and third female mayors, Anne Rudin and Heather Fargo, both members of the LWVSC.

Belle Coolegge worked at Sacramento High School for 35 years and was instrumental in the development of Sacramento Junior College, later renamed Sacramento City College, serving as dean. After retiring from public education she ran for City Council. She was the highest vote-getter, thus becoming mayor in 1948.

According to Anne Rudin, Ms .Coolegge became involved in city governance long before women were filling roles traditionally held by men. A. Rudin and H. Fargo were acknowledged for their contributions to our city. Anne Rudin became mayor in 1983 and Heather Fargo in 2000. As we celebrate Women’s Equality Day we honor those women who have blazed trails and broken down barriers, including holding elected office. Sacramento women owe a debt of gratitude to Belle Coolegge. By Nancy Compton

Belle Coolegge

Born 7/29/ 1884 in Sutter Creak

Died 11/9/1955 in Sacramento

Photo credit: Google Images 8/26/14



In Memory

Jean Paolini

We mourn the passing of long time League member, Jean, on August 5, 2014.

Statement of Position on Human Trafficking

As adopted at the LWVUS 2014 National Convention

The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools. From *League Update*, 7/31/14

Women’s Equality Day

League members and guests celebrated Women’s Equality Day on Saturday, August 16, at the Wellspring Women’s Center in Oak Park. Keynote speaker Dr. Lee Simpson, a history professor from California State University, Sacramento, provided a rich background of information on the women who blazed the trail that led to the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920, granting women the right to vote in national elections. Several western states had granted women the right to vote earlier, including California, in 1911.

Among these brave women were Abigail Adams, the well-read and outspoken wife of John Adams, Lucretia Mott, a women’s rights activist, abolitionist, and social reformer, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, also an abolitionist and leading figure of the early women’s rights movement, and Susan B. Anthony, a social reformer who collected anti-slavery petitions at the age of 17, and played a pivotal role in the women’s suffrage movement.

It was **Bella Abzug**, congressional representative from the State of New York, fondly known as “Battling Bella,” who in 1971 successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to declare August 26th (each year) as Women’s Equality Day. A California State Senate resolution, written and signed by State Senator Cathleen Galgiani, was presented to the group by Co-Presidents Nancy Compton and Paula Lee.

Annie Brackney, of the Wellspring Women’s Center, welcomed the League and provided information about its services. Wellspring is a welcoming place for women and children offering a nutritious breakfast daily to over 200 women and their children. Volunteers provide supervision and creative play for children. Wellspring staff assists guests with referrals to needed services. Founded in 1987, Wellspring is a nondenominational, nonprofit organization designed to nurture the innate goodness and self-esteem of women, and to do so within an atmosphere of hospitality with dignity and love. By Nancy Compton

Holly Smith , Voter Services Director, and son at Women’s Equality Day



Photo credit- R.Torretto

Homelessness in Sacramento

The seeds of homelessness in California were sown over 40 years ago, in the early 1970's, when Governor Ronald Reagan started "de-populating" the state hospitals. My first professional job just out of UCLA was working as a social worker at Pacific State Hospital in Pomona, preparing residents to move into the community. The promises were broken that insured social services would be in place to help with this transition.

And so this is where America is now: Point in Time Homeless estimates on a January night in 2013: total US Homeless 610,042: 65% in shelters, 35% unsheltered, 23% were children under the age of 18. Of the total US homeless 29% were in California -- 111,732.

What is LWVSC going to do?

At the annual meeting in May, members voted to study "Homelessness in Sacramento" as one of the Issues of Emphasis. The committee, now referred to as "ComHom", has been working hard all summer reading, researching, and making connections with other homeless advocacy groups in Sacramento, i.e., Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA), Area Congregations Together (ACT), and Sacramento Steps Forward.

We need you! If you have noticed the increased number of homeless individuals as you walk or drive around your neighborhood, if you have taken food to closets, if you know the places of worship that let the homeless sleep, then think about how you can help. ComHom needs members to help with research on the internet, to make phone calls or to attend some monthly committee meetings to discuss the LWVSC's role in helping to reduce homelessness in Sacramento County. ComHom meeting: **Monday Sept. 15, 6 – 8:00 pm** at IHOP, **3000 N St.** Please contact aliceginosar@yahoo.com or barbhopkins2@yahoo.com.

Climate Change and Environmental Justice

The American Lung Association has reported that scientific studies have estimated potential health and societal costs of more than \$20 billion in the United States due to climate change. An inordinate impact will be felt by the most vulnerable including seniors, children, and the economically disadvantaged. In California a funding source to mitigate these impacts is included in landmark legislation, AB 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The cap and trade program requires greenhouse gas emission sources to purchase credits for emissions in excess of a regulatory "cap" established by the California Air Resources Board. SB 535, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Act of 2012, requires that 25% of these revenues be allocated to underserved communities. The 2014-15 state budget includes \$872 million in cap and trade revenues of which \$218 will be spent in lower income areas.

As an example of how these funds may be used was demonstrated at a recent Sacramento Regional Transit (SRT) Board hearing on their "Short Range Transit Plan". Residents and other supporters of the underserved Avondale-Glen Elder community, located in the southeast area of Sacramento, passionately requested the restoration of transit service. This community includes many transit dependent residents and has been without service since 2009 when the economic recession forced SRT to reduce service by more than 40%. In response the Board voted to direct staff to identify funding sources, including the state cap and trade funds, needed to serve this area. This is a gratifying "win-win" decision that will result in emission reductions and meet a critical community need. A final decision will be made in mid October.

For more information please contact Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director.

September Unit Meetings

Please review for discussion the LWVSC’s Position on Sacramento’s City Governance. As an Issue for Emphasis the LWVSC has chosen to advocate for the League’s position in the 2014 campaign against the Sacramento Checks and Balances (Strong Mayor) measure.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday Sept. 8, 6:15 p.m.	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday Sept. 9, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner Helen Shyrock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday Sept. 9, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday Sept. 9, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

[Contact Bill Lee](mailto:units@lwvsacramento.org) , Unit coordinator, 916-688-5360, units@lwvsacramento.org OR ooogie2lee@comcast.net if you are unable to attend the Unit meetings but would like to receive emails of the Unit discussion materials,

Official City of Sacramento Governance Position

After a thorough study of city governance, the League Women Voters Sacramento County concludes: Sacramento, as a city of neighborhoods, is better suited for a collaborative council-manager form of government, where the Mayor participates with the Council as a citywide representative. This structure gives the public equal access to the Mayor and Council. It is important for both the Mayor and Council members to hear public testimony. It is reasonable for a city to change its form of government only when there is a clear body of evidence that shows there are structural problems, which can be solved by altering the form of government, and that such change will address demonstrated problems. The Council, including the Mayor, should have the power to appoint and remove the charter officers: the city manager; city attorney; city clerk and city treasurer. It is important that these officers are chosen for their professional qualifications and experience. Changes in the budget process can be made to incorporate best practices without changing the City Charter. The public should be engaged early in the priority setting stage of the budget process as well as in ongoing deliberations. Council should continue to hold the powers not explicitly delegate. (LWVSC Handbook & Roster p. 6)

Checks and Balances Act of 2014 or “Strong Mayor” Measure

In the 1920s, reformers were looking for ways to eliminate corruption and return control of municipal government to citizens. With emphasis on professional training and accountability, reformers advocated the **council-manager** structure to provide professional management for cities. Sacramento’s current council-manager structure is the most popular form of governance in the country. It is representative democracy at its best!

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Reasons to vote NO

1. While proponents claim a need for more accountability, nothing in the proposed measure addresses it. In fact, the “strong mayor” system would diminish transparency and accountability by concentrating authority in one person, a mayor. It would also be easier for special interests to use money and political power to influence a single elected official privately, rather than having to obtain a public majority of city council support.
2. The proposed change weakens the City Council and representation of residents in the districts. It grants a mayor power to veto ordinances adopted by the Council, to oversee budget preparation and to veto any changes made by the Council. He or she would select the City Manager (confirmed by the Council), to be directed only by the Mayor and removed only by the Mayor. A mayor could fire the city manager without cause, virtually controlling all city employees. The current system retains a manager based on professional qualifications who works with all council members.
3. The assertion that the proposed change brings “checks and balances” is false. A mayor would exercise his or her decision making (and veto) power in private, not in public meetings, and **NOT** be required to hear public testimony. Six of eight council members would be needed to overturn a veto. A minority - in effect - would control the council who represents all residents/taxpayers.

Today’s cities succeed with strong, effective mayors who provide policy direction, vision and contribute to smooth functioning of local government. Cities use dedicated council members who work with a mayor to establish policy and competent, professional, managers to carry out those policies. They work together successfully in many of the country’s council-manager cities: San Jose, Phoenix, Dallas, Charlotte, Boulder, Las Vegas, Austin, San Antonio and Anaheim, to name a few. There are no compelling reasons to vote Yes and many compelling reasons to vote NO on this measure. Vote with the League!

To request a speaker: **LWVSC (916) 447-8683** or advocacy@lwvsacramento.org . by Paula Lee

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento Suffragist Club

It is not too late to join the Suffragist Club through your membership renewal. If you have already renewed your membership, the additional donation to join the Suffragist Club can be made through the local League website, http://www.lwvsacramento.org/lwvs_info/suffragistclub.htm

One becomes a member of the Suffragist Club by making a donation of \$100 or more to either the General Fund or Education Fund. Join on-line or join by sending a check indicating General Fund or Education Fund on memo line to: The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, 1107 9th Street Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95814. Gifts are only tax deductible if the donation is earmarked for the Education Fund.

Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney, past Presidents of the LWVSC established the Suffragist Club to give members an opportunity to support the League at a higher level. Gifts to the Suffragist Club became the foundation for the Anne Rudin Scholarship Fund, commemorating the accomplishments of former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin, to enable other women to pursue higher education in the fields of public administration and public policy.

A scholarship of \$1,000 has been awarded annually since establishment of the fund; the scholarship is made based on academic performance, commitment to public service and career objectives.

Anne Rudin served as President of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento and the League of Women Voters of California. She was elected to the Sacramento City Council for twelve years and Mayor of Sacramento from 1983 to 1992. Anne Rudin is the first woman to be elected Mayor of Sacramento. She continues to be involved in the community.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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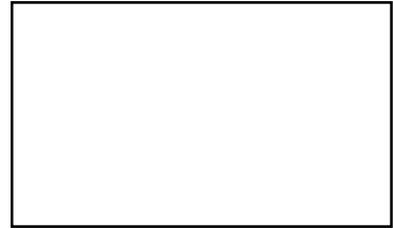
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SEPTEMBER 2014

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Donations to the Suffragist Club will be recognized in *The Sacramento Voter* newsletter. If you have questions call the League office at 916-447-8683. by Lola Acosta, Past President, 2009-2012

Election Day Activities

LWVSC will staff phones at the Sacramento County Registrars Office between **6:10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.** on Election Day (11/4). The Registrar's office will train volunteers on Mon & Fri of the week prior to Election Day on **Oct 27 & Oct 31**. Five volunteers are needed for each shift: **5:45 -11 a.m., 10:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 3:25 to 8:00 p.m.** Volunteers contact Carol Goldberg at moonberg@msn.com

School Outreach Activities

Mock elections will take place between **Tuesday, Sept. 2 & Friday, Oct.10**, complete with official voting booths! Specific dates are not yet available, but at least six to ten schools are expected to participate. Two volunteers are needed for each day of mock elections from about 7:30a.m. until the end of the school day. This is a fun event with plenty of down time between classes. Volunteers will help register students of legal age to vote, assist with set-up and take-down, and answer questions regarding voting and registration. If you would like to volunteer, contact Carol Goldberg at moonberg@msn.com