



The Sacramento Voter

APRIL 2017



Co-President's Message

Spring is in full swing! Resistance is in the air as the LWVUS gears up to advocate for our positions especially on health care, climate change and immigration. Here in Sacramento County the birds are singing and we are busy preparing to welcome our LWV colleagues to our 2017 LWVC Convention and celebrating the big step forward Sacramento has taken to build an ethical and transparent city government that encourages civic participation.

Plans for our LWVSC Annual meeting Thursday, May 25th are well underway. Louise Einspahr and the Nominating Committee have been busy preparing a slate of officers; Suzi Bakker, Nancy Findeisen and Finance Committee, preparing a budget; the Board has a recommended program for the 2017-2018 League year and Trudy Schafer is updating our by-laws. These items require a vote ... your vote, as a member of the LWVSC. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Annual Meeting; it will be fun eating, drinking and dialoging with your League friends and ... we need your vote!

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County will be hosting an Immigration Forum Thursday, April 27th with many of the same partners we worked with last month on the very successful Women's History event "Motherhood by Choice". Details on page 2.

We both attended the very interesting conversation on higher education with the Chancellors of the Community College, CSU and UC systems. See Nancy's report on page 4. All three committed to safe and inclusive campuses and agreed that a student can't focus on education while worried about family members being taken away. They sent letters supporting DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students and opposing the travel ban.
By Nancy & Paula

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EVENTS

Unit Meetings, Monday-Tuesday, April 10-11, 2017, pg. 3

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Immigration Forum. Maple Neighborhood Center Multi-Purpose Room 3301 37th Ave. near Fruitridge & Hwy 99, pg. 2

Thursday, May 25, 2017, LWVSC Annual Meeting, Poetry Center, 1719, 25th Street, Sacramento

Thursday -Sunday, June 1-4, 2017, LWVC Convention, Sacramento. Sheraton Grand, 1230 J Street

Saturday, July 29, 2017, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. Women's Empowerment Conference at Holiday Inn Express, 9175 West Stockton, Elk Grove

2016-2017

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Immigration Forum April 27th

Considering the current conversation on this topic and our new LWVUS Immigration Position (below), the LWV Sacramento County will be hosting an immigration forum. The purpose is to educate ourselves and our community about issues facing immigrants and refugees in Sacramento and to understand what it means to be a “sanctuary” city, church, school, etc.

We have a short film, and a great panel planned including a student “dreamer” with an incredible story, Gaby Trejo from Area Congregations Together and others.

Dr. Rhonda Rios Kravitz, retired dean from Sacramento City College, will moderate. Dr. Kravitz was a panelist for our Redistricting, Ethics and Transparency public forums and participates with us on the Voter Registration and Civic Engagement group formed by Justice Cruz Reynoso.

Plan to attend and invite others to learn what is happening here in Sacramento County as a result of new executive orders. Paula Lee

Thursday, April 27th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Maple Neighborhood Center Multi-Purpose Room 3301, 37th Avenue near Fruitridge & Hwy 99

LWVUS Immigration Position in Brief

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crisis; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

LWVSC Sponsors Women’s History Awards at History Day

The LWVSC once again sponsored Women’s History Awards at the 2017 Sacramento County History Day held this year on February 25 at Inderkum High School. This year’s theme was “Standing Up for Rights”, and there were 34 applicants for the Women’s History Award - nearly eight times more than any other of the 14 Special Awards at the competition.

I was privileged to select the following three outstanding young women scholars who received a small cash stipend from the LWVSC and attractive certificates from the County Office of Education.

- A senior Sacramento Country Day School student for her 1500 word research paper on Dr. Aleeta Jacobs, a Dutch suffragette, pacifist, and physician who went on the year-long world speaking tour with Carrie Chapman Catt, the founder of the LWV, to advocate for women’s rights during 1913-14.
- A sophomore from Winston Churchill Middle School student for her 10 minute video documentary, *Standing Up for the 51 Percent Minority*, about Betty Freiden, a leading feminist from the 1960s though 1980s time period who founded the National Organization for Women and was a leader in the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment.
- A Sutter Middle School sophomore for her Exhibit “Rising for Equality” about Elizabeth Cady Stanton, abolitionist, a leading founder of the women’s suffrage movement, author of the *Declaration of Sentiments* presented at the landmark 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, president of the Women’s Suffrage Association, and author of the *Woman’s Bible*.

The top three in each of the competition categories will go to the California History Day competition on May 7 at William Jessup University, Rocklin. From there the top finishers will attend National History Day on June 16 at the University of Maryland.
By Rick Bettis

APRIL 2017 Unit Meetings

The April Unit Meetings will discuss the changes to national government made and suggested by the 2016 Election. What can we do about proposals that threaten events we care about: climate, health care, freedom of the press, immigration?

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday April 10, 2017, 6:15 p.m.	Eileen Heaser 916- 456-2154	449 San Miguel Way. Sacramento 95819
Suburban	Tuesday April 11, 2017, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner-944-1042 Helen Shryock 916-944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday April 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 916-422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento, CA 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday April 11, 2017, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 916-688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Contact Sheila Kamhi, Unit Coordinator, (916)-880-2213 grandmakamhi@gmail.com if you are unable to attend the Unit Meetings, but would like to receive the Unit discussion materials.

DISCUSSION

After the Woman’s March earlier in the year, a memo from Chris Carson, League President, sent a message suggesting that League members continue speaking out on issues such as “the likely illegal and discriminatory immigration orders” and the “importance of preserving the Affordable Care Act.” See the LWVUS [Right Now: Voices of the League](#) for more information on these issues and others. By S. Kamhi



League members celebrating the City Council’s passage of the Ethics and Transparency Reform measures.

L to R- T. Shafer, F. Ziff, L. Menchaca, J. Fuller, P. Lee, N. Heidorn, G. Zinuk, T. Riviera, C. Jones. Not pictured: E. Withycombe, R. Bettis, R. Herber and other League members and community groups that supported the *Reform* and attended the meeting.

Steve Hansen, Council Member & League member, made the motion to adopt the package of laws that includes: a "Sunshine" Transparency Ordinance, updated Campaign Finance Ordinance, an Ethics Code, and a five member Ethics Commission that will enforce a Code of Ethics that will apply to all city employees including elected officials, charter and council appointed officers.

Submitted by P. Lee 3/21/2017

In Memory

Anna Antos

Anna Antos, LWVSC member and longtime Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento (UUSS) member, died earlier this year. Years ago she chaired a League Unit at her home in Fair Oaks Village. She served as UUSS president from 1974-75. Donations in Anna's name have been received at the LWVSC Office. At the family's request, there will be no memorial service.

Higher Education by Nancy Compton

According to Hans Johnson, Director and Senior Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, our state will quickly be facing a shortage of college graduates. In fact, by the year 2030, this "degree drought" will result in a shortfall of 1.1 million residents without a bachelor's degree, while employment trends suggest that for 38% of the jobs, a degree will be a requirement.

How has this happened in a state with so many higher education options? Our community college system is the largest provider of lower division education and workforce training in the state and nation. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor of California's Community Colleges, proudly states that 100% of our high school graduates are eligible to attend community college. Twenty-nine percent of UC graduates and 51% of CSU graduates started at a community college. But many students drop out even before attaining an A.A. degree. What is happening?

Numerous issues are attached to what is variously being called a skills gap or degree drought, including the fact that baby boomers, the best educated and most skilled workforce in U.S. history, are quickly retiring. A major issue now is that many students entering California colleges are underprepared and thus required to begin their college journey in remedial courses in math, English, or often both. Attrition is high within this group, with few earning a degree or certificate, or transferring to a four-year college. Many of these students are the first in their family to attend college, often coming from homes with few resources or systems of familial support.

The good news is that two-thirds of our colleges have engaged in building what is being called developmental course sequences and support. This reform focuses on better aligning developmental coursework with students' preferred programs of study, providing adequate counseling support, and offering student help centers.

The really good news is that California has reinvested more heavily in higher education than the rest of the nation. Beginning with the economic recovery in 2010, California increased per student funding by 15%, while average investment nationwide increased a mere 2% during this period, and some large states, such as Pennsylvania and Texas, actually cut funding by 20%.

As we move forward, it is crucial that our state continues investing in our system of higher education, and strengthening the structure of support for entering students to ensure that they obtain the education and skills they need to succeed in college and ultimately, the labor market where they may become contributing members of California's economy.

Note: The above is a synopsis of a presentation hosted by the Public Policy Institute of California, *A Conversation with California's Public Higher Education Leaders*. It was an honor to represent the League at this event.

Women Scientists – Water Management

In recognition of March's Women's History Month, the AAUW, Sacramento, presented a program (3/16/17), "To Engineer is Human: Paths to Water Resource Management." Two women scientists influential on California's water crisis spoke.

Anne Lynch, Civil Engineer (graduate from Auburn University, Alabama) and Senior Project Manager with CH2M, leads the Statewide Flood Management Planning Program and is a consultant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Anne worked in Houston, TX before moving to San Diego and in 2010 to Sacramento to work on the Delta Plan. Every five years DWR publishes a Plan concerning the levees in the Central Valley System. She described

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the many agencies that are involved with flood management including federal (Corps of Engineers), state, local and private contractors; many are duplicating the work of the others.

Most of the water projects were built 40-60 years ago and the regulations were written later. Many counties have river basin maps in print not electronic, making them difficult to use and manipulate. Anne stated that their agency is trying to move from action orientation (structural developments) to outcome driven approaches, focusing on long term measurable outcomes and investing in policies that promote programs and projects that support societal values.

Other points: Over 2,000 agencies have multiple responsibilities for flood management. Flood management is “totally underfunded,” all 58 counties are at risk for major flooding, there are 1,500 dams, 1,000 debris basins and 13,800 miles of public and private levees. Federal dams are owned by the Corps of Engineers or the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Project is owned by the State; there are 35 state water contractors (they are private). The Oroville spillway is owned by water contractors. The contractors did not want to pay to have the concrete spillway fixed, previous to its failure, as a revision of regulations was in process.

Leslie Laudon, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Financial Assistance for the California State Water Resources Control Board was a very engaging, extemporaneous speaker. She has a masters in geochemistry from the Colorado School of Mines. She mentioned that her father was a geologist and every summer he would take the family for seven weeks from Wisconsin to the Yukon to do geology fieldwork. Geology is a natural for her although she planned to be a medical doctor. Her work consists of environmental monitoring of water sites around the state utilizing a budget of half a billion dollars and a staff of 300. The agency is responsible for monitoring beaches, radiation sites on military bases, cities with contaminated drinking water, e.g. Porterville, and underground storage tank clean-up (funded by gas taxes). She stated that 2,000 communities ran out of water during the drought. They drill wells and supply bottled water to these communities. The Agency monitors school water supplies and can supply clean water free for two years. After two years the schools are expected to assume the continuing costs, most schools do not take the free water as they do not want to continue the program once the Agency leaves. Two timely, relevant talks. By E. Heaser

Climate Change and Renewable Fuels

The impacts of Climate Change continues to be more severe, with increasing global temperatures, more extreme and erratic weather, acidification of oceans causing disintegration of coral reefs, and more wild fires, to name a few. Scientists have concluded that we must substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Last year the California Legislature passed SB 32 which sets a target of reducing GHG by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and the Governor’s Executive Order calls for an 80% reduction below 1990 by 2040. It is clear that we must move away from the use of fossil fuels. The best way to achieve this is subject to much discussion.

I recently attended the national “Rethinking Methane” conference where participants were optimistic that the use of renewable biogas fuels will be an important part of the GHG effort. Studies indicate that the use of biogas fuel produced by anaerobic digestion of dairy wastes can result in the reduction of GHG equivalent to removing nearly 500 fossil fuel-powered cars from the road for every 1000 dairy cows whose wastes are processed. Use of fuel from similar processing of food wastes is equally effective. In Sacramento anaerobic digester facilities use food waste to produce compressed renewable gas fuel that is used by solid waste collection trucks, and buses. Biogas can also be added to fossil based natural gas pipelines for general uses. The use of cellulosic plants such as sugarcane to produce biofuel also results in significant GHG reductions. However many believe that using food wastes for compost would be more effective than producing biofuels and that the growing of fuel crops is not as effective as the conversion to electric powered transportation with energy produced from renewable resources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro when full life cycle GHG are considered.

Research at UC Berkeley has shown that applying three inches of compost to only five percent of California’s rangelands will sequester GHG equal to emissions from six million average cars from the road. The Executive Director of the California Air Resources Board indicated to me, at a recent meeting, that biofuels could serve as an effective

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bridge” to the time when we can completely replace fossil fuels with near zero GHG renewable energy sources. We can also reduce food wastes and eat foods that have a lower GHG life cycle GHG footprint. For example studies by the US EPA and Environmental Working Group estimate that consuming one kilogram of the following foods equals GHG emissions from the average car miles traveled: Lamb-91, Beef-62, Cheese-31, Turkey-25, Chicken-16, Eggs-11, Potatoes-7, Rice-6, Nuts-5, Beans, Tofu &Vegetables-4.5, Fruit-2.5, Lentils-2. In other words, when we change to a vegetable diet, we reduce GHGs. Therefore leaguers, eat more bean burritos and fewer hamburgers! By Rick Bettis.

Welcome New Members

Cecilia Carter
 Mary Hall
 Daphne Laughridge
 Kevin Sabo
 Diane Vonderlin

Unhealthy Neighborhoods

Professor Jesus Hernandez, Sociology, UCD, spoke to the Renaissance Society on 2/14/17. His topic title was “Modern Segregation in Sacramento, Barriers to Building Neighborhood Health.” The questions he posed were: Why is there a difference between Folsom and Sacramento and why is Folsom getting many more tax dollars? Why are there concentrations of poverty and racial discrepancies in neighborhoods? How do public investment policies play a role in urban planning, education, health care, market interventions? What is the role of racial segregation in constraining neighborhood levels of sustainability?

Prof. Hernandez was raised in Oak Park and he used that as his example/model of an unhealthy neighborhood. He explained that after World War I there was a great migration from New York and Chicago. Restrictive covenants were used to create market demand. There were racial deed restrictions, and as the city grew it became more race-lined. The idea was that to remain stable, neighborhoods must keep the same racial and social class mix. There were lists compiled of the least desirable to most desirable groups who should belong in “stable neighborhoods.” The least desirable were Mexicans, Negroes, Southern Italians, plus more until you reached the most desirable, i.e., English and Germans. In 1937 the FHA did not provide loans for those determined undesirable. This was part of the New Deal, perpetuating redlining. Blacks and others were pushed out of downtown and into the Oak Park area; funding did not follow.

Public policies created this situation. The north and south areas of Sacramento are where poverty continues, east and west is where the affluent live. He gave an example of what occurred about three years ago when many schools were closed in Oak Park and nearby areas. Not only were children deprived of a school near them (transportation is a big problem in the poor areas) teachers and other entities that existed to support the schools, brought money into those neighborhoods. These other entities disappeared with the school closings, resulting in even more deprivation as their money left with them.

Health care is very important to make these neighborhoods thrive. Instead of medical groups remaining in poor areas they are moving to Rocklin, Elk Grove and El Dorado Hills. With the disappearance of redevelopment agencies there is no connectivity to the neighborhood. Future development planning through 2035 indicates that development is not planned for these poor areas.

Professor Hernandez says that there is no real planning for neighborhoods as there is for states and cities. He, with the help of others including SACOG, did get some crosswalks and reduced lanes installed in the Fruitridge area, thus making it safer for the occupants. Much advocacy is needed to obtain funding to invest in deprived neighborhoods.

By E. Heaser

Book Review

The West without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us about Tomorrow, 2013 by UC Berkeley paleoclimatologist B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam, Senior Environmental Planner of Natural Sciences at CALTRANS. The book documents the many extended droughts and catastrophic floods that have been the history of the West for two millennia. Ingram notes that the West has become much drier and storms more severe and rain rather than snow falls. Climate experts forecast the new normal to be long-term droughts with occasional deluges. As was noted in the *Bee* article ... Concrete alone will not work forever.” ... “working with rather than against nature, is the smarter route.” *Sacramento Bee* 3/5/17 6E.

Reports

Exploring the Consequences of Charter School Expansion in U.S. Cities

“This report highlights patterns of charter school expansion across several large and mid-size U.S. cities since 2000.” District schools are surviving but under increased stress. The report states that most charter expansion has occurred among independently operated charter schools, e.g., Imagine Schools, Inc., White Hat Management, National Heritage Academies. They have been the subject of federal and state investigations regarding financial malfeasance and conflicts of interest. Expansion of charters is mainly in low-income, predominantly minority urban settings. Children are being segregated by economic status, race, language and disabilities. *Economic Policy Report*. By Bruce D. Baker, November 30, 2016. Excerpted from the *Executive Summary*.

School Vouchers are Not a Proven Strategy for Improving Student Achievement : Studies of U.S. and International Voucher Programs Show that the Risks to School Systems Outweigh Insignificant Gains in Test Scores and Limited Gains in Graduation Rates

“Studies of voucher programs in several U.S. cities, the states of Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, and in Chile and India, find limited improvements at best in student achievement and school district performance from even large-scale programs. In the few cases in which test scores increased, other factors, namely increased public accountability, not private school competition, seem to be more likely drivers. High rates of attrition from private schools among voucher users in several studies raises concerns. The second largest and longest-standing U.S. voucher program, in Milwaukee, offers no solid evidence of student gains in either private or public schools.” *Economic Policy Report* By Martin Carnoy. February 28, 2017.

Following the Money of Mass Incarceration

Prison Policy Initiative Report, Peter Wagner and Bernadette Rabuy.

The authors report “that the system of mass incarceration costs the government and families of justice-involved people at least \$182 billion every year.” About one-half of the money goes to paying staff. Private prison companies are only an extension of the public system and the government payroll for corrections employees is over 100 times higher than the private prison industry’s profits. Costs for feeding and health care, bail bond companies, phone companies, commissary vendors and more are described in this study. Excerpt by E. Heaser

Water Stress and Changing San Joaquin Valley

The San Joaquin Valley—California’s largest agricultural region and an important contributor to the nation’s food supply—is facing growing water stress and a number of related environmental and public health problems. Large parts of the valley have become dependent on unsustainable pumping of groundwater. Tackling these linked issues with cooperative, coordinated approaches is key to success. “The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 requires valley farms and communities to bring their groundwater basins into balance by 2040.” Issues include nitrate contamination of groundwater, accumulating salinity in soils, local air pollution, decline in aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems. Strategies that need to be addressed: manage groundwater reserves, expand usable supplies and reduce demand. By Ellen Hanak, Sarge Green, et al. Excerpted from the *Public Policy Institute of California Report*, March 2017, and the *Sacramento Bee* 3/2/17 7B
Review and Reports by E. Heaser



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