



The Sacramento Voter

DECEMBER 2017



Co-Presidents' Corner

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Nine months after the Women’s March on January 21, 2017, about 4,000 people, mostly women, gathered in Detroit for the Women’s Convention, billed as an extension of the movement that grew out of the marches. The halls of the convention were reported to have had the ambience of a raucous campaign rally in which women were tackling a broad and sprawling list of issues, including stopping efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, threats to the environment, mass incarceration, reproductive rights, workplace rights, treatment of immigrants, civil and voting rights protection, and sexual harassment.

Yet for all the disparate topics, one thread ran through them all: opposition to today’s political climate and a determination to elect more women to political office. In small rooms, speakers led detailed training sessions for candidates at all levels: how to get the vote out, how to give a campaign speech, how to register voters, and how to run for office.

It is not known how many women will ultimately seek elected office in 2018, but the leaders of Emily’s List, a national organization dedicated to advancing women in politics, said that in the past year over 20,000 women have contacted the group to say they are ready to run for office. By comparison, the group had heard from only 920 such women in the two years before the election, and even that had been a record high until this year.

Global Citizen highlighted this trend, stating, “On Tuesday, November 7, one year after a presidential election that saw a first-ever female presidential candidate defeated by a man, more than sixty women were on the ballot in races all across America. As the results poured in, it became clear: When women run, they win.”

One race in New Jersey was particularly telling: a female candidate decided to run against a male incumbent who made fun of the Women’s March. She won handily.

A conclusion may be drawn here: it is evident that our nation needs us, and needs us now. As League members, we are well informed on the issues facing so many Americans because we have studied, developed positions, and advocated for them. We have leadership skills because we have spoken at city council meetings and testified at hearings. We believe in democracy and the power of the vote. We believe in community and the ability to talk with others whose viewpoints may differ. We believe in inclusiveness and the dignity of each individual. This is what our nation is looking for in our elected officials.

So – have you given any thought to running for public office? If not, do you know someone you can encourage to run? Have you thought about campaigning for a well-qualified, thoughtful, intelligent candidate whose focus is on people over profit? If not, why not?

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EVENTS

Unit meetings, Tuesday, December 12, 2017, page three

Thursday, December 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Memorial for homeless individuals who died in 2017, held at Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2018 Women's March from Southside Park to the Capitol.

2017-2018

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C. Bonsignore, Taylor Buck, N. Compton
 Photo by A. Ginosar, 11/8/17

Anne Rudin Scholarship Awarded at Suffragists Event

On November 8, Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney hosted the Suffragists Club gathering at which the annual Anne Rudin Scholarship was awarded. In introducing the scholarship recipient, Trisha announced that, after careful reading of the applications and much deliberation, U.C. Davis student Taylor Buck was selected as this year's recipient. Taylor is working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Service. She has a solid academic background and has demonstrated leadership in serving youth in myriad ways. After graduation, Taylor plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Policy. Former Mayor Anne Rudin was in attendance and presented Taylor with a certificate and a check for \$1,000 to help with the cost of her studies.

The Suffragists Club was a brainchild of Trisha and Suzanne in 1996 when they were thinking of a way for members to provide additional support to our local league beyond the cost of membership. Members donate \$100 or more annually in addition to the annual dues.

Trisha stated that through the years, the Suffragists have raised thousands of dollars that have directly contributed to the ability of our league to continue doing the work of providing voter services, educating our community on the issues, and engaging in outreach and advocacy efforts. By Suzanne Phinney

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Let's not let this opportunity pass us by. Democracy demands our participation and our passion for truth, justice, and opportunity for all Americans.
Nancy & Claudia

Unit Meetings—December 2017

Affordable housing and sexual harassment are the Unit discussion topics for December meetings.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Suburban	Tuesday December 12, 2017, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner 944-1042 Helen Shryock 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday December 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831

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.

See: Affordable Housing article on page six. You may want to listen to the Capital Public Radio documentary about affordable housing: [The View From Here: Place and Privilege](#) a one hour multimedia documentary about the local housing situation.

A KVIE [Studio Sacramento](#) program hosted by Scott Syphax, interviewed Joe Barr, CPR and Phil Serna, County Supervisor on 11/17/17, 7:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. on the topic, "Place and Privilege- Housing in Sacramento."

By E. Heaser

Sexual harassment article: *Washington Post*, 11/17/17 by Jena McGregor. "[Why sexual harassment training doesn't stop harassment.](#)"

By S. Kamhi

Welcome New Member

Brenda Main

A BOLD STEP

City and County Collaborate for Homeless Services

Finally, on Tuesday, November 7, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$44 million for the next three years for prevention services for homeless individuals. The "Whole Person Grant," led by Mayor Steinberg, will coordinate care in hospital emergency rooms, often the first point of contact for homeless individuals. The grant will provide mental health services and substance abuse treatment. There were about 40 homeless advocates, including LWVSC's members Rick Bettis and Barbara Hopkins, who testified at the Board meeting. Influencing the vote was the fact that in 2017 over 3,660 people in Sacramento County were living without permanent shelter, including 2,000 people living outside, a large increase over the past year.

The total amount allocated for the Whole Person Grant is \$108 million for the next three years, that includes \$44 million from the County, \$32 million from the City and hospitals, and \$32 million matching funds from the federal government. By the following day, 37 homeless individuals had already been contacted by outreach workers and referred to needed services. Supervisor Phil Serna told *The Sacramento Bee* that it was a massive amount of money, that it was a "bold step" and that "we better see a change." *The Sacramento Bee*, November 8, 2017

Plan to come to the Memorial for homeless individuals who died in 2017, Thursday, December 21 at Trinity Cathedral.

By Alice Ginosar

Voter Service Report

At the moment, Voter Service is quiet before the storm of events in 2018. We have two SB 450 Voter's Choice Act (VCA) presentations in January. We decided to wait until January to do a training class on SB 450.

The only current project we are working on is with Friends of the River (FOR) who has requested our help with registration, not only in a nearby community, but also across northern California. FOR is gearing up to train 10 more River Advocates as part of their January-May cohort. The River Advocates will participate in a four-day intensive training in January and then head into various communities to organize. We are very pleased they reached out to our local League. California State League staff is helping put together the contact information for the various Leagues. Friends of the River would like to train their volunteers how to register voters in each of these areas. Voter Service is happy to help them reach out in a major way across California. A special shout out to the State League staff for helping us gather contact information.

Activity is picking up on ballot measures. There are a few measures that are already qualified. One statewide measure has to do with legislative districts. I encourage you to explore the [Secretary of State's](#) website and See: Elections. Navigating the website will help you learn interesting information including several statewide ballot measures in the pending stage.

A word of caution as we move into the 2018 June primary and November election. Please be careful before signing a petition. Signature gathers are already out. Before you sign make sure you already understand the measure and really want it on the ballot.

And lastly, there is the possibility of big changes in the Sacramento City Council as four council districts have elections in 2018. District #1 Angelique Ashby, #3 Jeff Harris, #5 Jay Schenirer, and #7 Rick Jennings. Filing deadline is March 9, 2018.

Thank you League Members for always being there when Voter Service needs your help.

By Louise Einspahr

Housing, Homeless and Hunger in Sacramento

Sacramento continues to seek solutions for the critical issues of the lack of housing, homelessness and hunger. Significant progress was made when the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to partner with the City of Sacramento in providing critically needed mental and physical health care, and other services for the homeless in the county. This action resulting from negotiations led by the Mayor of Sacramento was supported by testimony of 40 advocates, including myself for the LWVSC. The County also approved using \$44 million of available state Mental Health Services Act funding with the City's \$64 million of Whole Person Care (WPC) funds. Half of the WPC funds are federal, administered by the state and half will be a combination of City funds and donated in-kind services.

These funds cannot be used for housing which remains inadequate in the county. Both the city and county are seeking to use existing vacant buildings such as warehouses to provide short term shelter and transitional housing. Faith groups are providing shelter at their churches and some are accommodating new "tiny" homes on their properties.

Because of a very low three percent vacancy rate rents have been rising at a double digit rate. Many low income renters are facing eviction. Some groups are advocating for rent control. There will be a \$4 billion housing bond on the November, 2018 ballot. Legislation has been passed that will add between \$75 and \$225 in fees for property transactions that will be used to help subsidize housing. Legislation has been approved that will help expedite approval of new housing. However, these actions will not result in the needed housing. Some are advocating for a county bond measure and added tax funding to support affordable housing.

There was a recent court ruling upholding the City "Camping Ordinance" that makes it illegal to camp overnight in areas not designated for more than one night. The City has adopted an ordinance that bans "physically aggressive"

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soliciting or “panhandling.”

In a very positive experience I was privileged to attend the Third Annual Homeless and Hunger Awards event organized by Assembly member Kevin McCarty's office. The Award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in helping those in need. This year's award recipients were from the following organizations: Women's Empowerment, Joshua Heart, Sacramento State Food Pantry, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, and California Mutual Housing.

Much is being done, however there are still thousands without affordable housing, with shelter for less than fifty percent of the homeless and an estimated one sixth of county residents are food insecure. By Rick Bettis

East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA)

ESIA met on 11/8/17. Police Chief Daniel Hahn gave a candid report about his early life followed by his vision for the Sacramento Police Department. Chief Hahn was adopted at birth and lived with his parents and siblings in Oak Park. As a child he witnessed a murder, drug dealing, and prostitutes in the front yard of his home; he was arrested as a teenager.

His goal is to improve the quality of life for all people. Over the last five or so years, thirty to forty thousand people have been let out of jail. Sixty to seventy percent have drug and mental health problems. Hahn emphasized that the Police Department has to change in order to deal with the current reality. Homelessness has doubled, necessitating the Department to partner with social workers and other social services in order to engage and meet the needs of the homeless. Doctors and veterinarians (most homeless have dogs for protection) have to be part of this partnership. The Dept. is still lacking 100 officers due to retirements, salary issues, and angst with the police by the community (level of trust is low). There continues to be a decrease in applications for entry into police work. The Sacramento Police Dept. no longer has a vice team, narcotics team, or a gang team. Human trafficking and prostitution have moved to the Internet and are the responsibility of the FBI task force.

Councilman Jeff Harris, District 3: fifty percent of his time deals with homelessness and the drug epidemic. Fifteen million dollars a year is budgeted and half of that amount is used for mitigation, e.g., removing trash, and urine and feces cleanup. The Whole Person Care program will result in \$108 million to work with a 24/7 triage center emergency shelter that will include wrap-around services. Locating housing is the next step. With only a two percent vacancy rate that is a problem. Vouchers do not cure the problem when there is no housing. The goal is to get 2,000 people off the streets in three years.

-Roads: \$15 million is allocated for repairs to begin in 2018.

-McKinley Village: Traffic impacts have not materialized so far. A traffic signal will be installed where Elvas Avenue & C Street merge; 130 homes sold and 90 people live in the Village at present.

-Folsom Blvd & 65th Street: is projected for dense housing for CSUS students, that should improve air quality and decrease the “movement” around the area; curbs and gutters and possibly a grocery store at the A&A shopping center are planned.

-Stone Bridge project (old site of Sutter Memorial Hospital): Teichert will begin construction summer 2018, 106-110 single family homes and possibly some commercial are planned. The Stone Bridge home design guidelines are based on the neighborhood, that is, World War II style. There will be underground powerlines in the complex. Building was delayed due to contaminated soil from underground diesel tanks that had to be cleaned.

-Oakmont Senior Living construction: will replace the medical building that was east of Sutter Memorial. There will be 185 assisted living units and a 35 capacity memory care unit. The facility will be two to three stories and have underground parking; construction to begin in 2019.

-AirBnB: There have been complaints about long-term rentals allowed by some owners. There is an ordinance to deal with the problems but not how to deal with the individual owners. Occupancy rates per residence are limited to six people at a time. If owners advertise for more than six people at a time their license can be withdrawn. Two to four hundred people are offering short term rentals at this time and five to ten owners are renting the entire house. Harris says that the ordinance may need revision.

By E. Heaser

Affordable Housing

All references are to *The Sacramento Bee (Bee)*

Recently the *Bee* published several articles describing reasons why housing is unaffordable, apart from the decrease in purchasing power, over the past thirty-five or more years.

[Chuck Reed](#) (8/3/17,10A), former San Jose Mayor states “Building new housing has a negative financial impact on city budgets ...” “... new housing means new residents and demands for city services that will cost much more than the revenues the city will get.” The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a deterrent as it can be used by opponents to dissuade developers and city officials.

[John Gamboa](#), (9/4/17,11A), Vice Chair of Two Hundred and president of California Community Builders, states that the prevailing wage mandate increases construction costs adding as much as \$84,000 to the cost of a new home. CEQA should be reformed so it cannot be misused thus blocking market-rate and subsidized housing projects. Gamboa contends that California’s homeownership is at the lowest level since 1940 and ranks 49th. Latinos own homes at a rate of forty percent and African Americans at thirty-five percent.

[Samantha Draper](#), (10/29/17,5D) takes issue with Gamboa’s prevailing wage claims. She disputes the “tall tales” by the building industry that workers’ wages and benefits increase the cost of building. “... research on prevailing wages shows no impact on total project costs, because these standards promote skills training and quality workmanship that increase productivity and reduce spending on fuel and materials.” Market rates reflect the local cost of living, alleviating taxpayers of having to subsidize workers. Draper states that eighty-five percent of building construction cost is for other than wages and benefits. Indiana and West Virginia have repealed their prevailing wage rules. “...since 1990, ... wages adjusted for inflation have ... decreased by twenty-five percent and been redistributed into profit margins for developers, which are growing fifty percent faster than the cost of materials or labor.” She states that the reduction of red tape would likely reduce costs to builders. Draper contends that “One in six construction workers in California faces some form of wage theft,” viz., cheating on payroll taxes or overtime. Without wage standards “... employers get away with a crime that costs taxpayers almost \$1 billion per year and costs workers \$1.2 billion.”

[Joe Mathews](#), *Connecting California* column for Zocalo Public Square, contends that the lack of building high-rises increases the shortage of housing. “Taller buildings provide the population density to support robust public transportation and thriving retail corridors.” Zoning codes bar tall multi-unit buildings in many areas, e.g., Oakland, Long Beach, Santa Monica. Oakland has a backlog of 18,000 approved units but they are unbuilt due to the “plague of height.” Mathews states that earthquakes reduce [collapse] shorter buildings more frequently than tall ones ... “our fears distort our vision.” “We block tall buildings in town centers because of a worry about new people, then complain about all the resulting rush-hour traffic ... and oppose new housing because it will change the character of our neighborhoods, then lament homeless camping down the street.” Tall, thin buildings offer better views than short, squat buildings that act like walls because they block views. Los Angeles and San Diego have high-rise housing and their downtowns are vibrant.

Capital Public Radio (CPR) produced a one hour multimedia documentary: [The View From Here: Place and Privilege](#) that explores the history, politics and economics of housing affordability in California's capital. The documentary explores the crisis through the personal stories of neighbors who are hit the hardest and living on the edge.

Joe Barr, CPR and Phil Serna, County Supervisor were interviewed, 11/17/17, 7:30-8:00 p.m. on [Studio Sacramento](#) by Scott Syphax.

Some points of view discussed: landlords do not like dealing with the bureaucracy of vouchers, it is easier to accept renters with money; many people have vouchers awaiting housing, they will be homeless before they get a home; infill development is more expensive and can be more contentious than greenfield development. They worry that the Sacramento area will become like the Bay area where many people cannot afford to live.

By E. Heaser



Google Images 11/18/17

Voter Writers

Members, please consider writing items for the *Voter* newsletter published monthly, September through May. If you reside in the surrounding cities we want to hear from you. Items relating to meetings you have attended relevant to League positions and programs are of interest. Keep submissions to approximately 300 words and submit between the 15th and 20th of the previous month. Submit your items to Alice Ginosar aliceginosar@yahoo.com

Thank you., E. Heaser

Book Notices

Submitted by E. Heaser

[23/7: Pelican Bay Prison and the Rise of Long-Term](#)

[Solitary Confinement](#), 2016 by Keramet Reiter, University of California, Irvine School of Law professor, examines the rise of long-term isolation in prisons. For the book she “drew on historical and media archives about prison history, legislative archives about prison building decisions, and legal documents ... challenging prison conditions in California and across the United States.”

The period covered was from 1970-2015. Forty-one oral interviews were conducted with prison officials, current or former inmates, judges, prison architects, lawyers and judges. She writes about the high suicide rate and other health and mental consequences of solitary confinement.

The British Journal of Criminology, Volume 57, Issue 4, July 2017, Pages 1006–1007,”Issue Section: Book Review.” By Bruce A. Arrigo.

Jeff Goodell, author, contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* magazine and 2016-17 fellow at the New America Foundation, tackles the inevitable fact of sea-water rise due to climate change. *The Water Will Come*, 2017, deals with our adaptation to rising water not the mitigation of it. He discusses large cities and islands and covers issues faced mainly by America and developed countries although the author touches on the inequity of climate impacts. Adaptation involves many interest groups including engineers, politicians, property developers, architects, residents at risk, etc. *Science* 10/20/17 v.358, issue 6361, page 310. By Jessica Lamond.

[White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide](#), 2017 by Carol Anderson, Emory University Professor and recipient of the [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) and several other recognitions for this book. The author covers the period beginning with the Reconstruction through the killing of Trayvon Martin. Following the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment (abolished slavery and involuntary servitude) African Americans’ advances toward full participation in democracy have been met with relentless rollbacks, e.g., Black Codes and Jim Crow, 1954 Brown v. Board of Education resulted in the shutting down of public schools in the south ... taxpayers financed segregated white private schools, Voting Rights Act of 1965 resulted in the Southern Strategy and much more is described. The *Boston Globe* states “A powerful survey of American history as seen in the violent white reactions to black progress, from Reconstruction to the great migration to the current political landscape.” Bloomsbury Publishing, London.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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