



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER



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Senior winners of High School History Day Competition from Vista del Lago High School & P. Lee, LWVSC Co-president, L. Culp, CEO Women’s Empowerment, & N. Compton, Co-president.; LWVSC at the 75th LWVSC anniversary event, 3/26, 2015. Photo credit B. Hopkins

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

The musical beat of the combo got people swaying, while LWVSC celebrated our 75th Birthday Gala on Thursday evening March 26 at Plates Café. The audience was delighted by the three young men who won the High School History Day Competition with their documentary on Jeanette Rankin. In 1915, Rankin was the first woman elected to U.S. Congress. To view this excellent [documentary](#) use password– NHDCA2015 –then click on left of video to view.

There is hope indeed in the promise of tomorrow’s youth, with the fine example of these high school students. Also, inspired by Lisa Culp, the audience learned of the development of Women’s Empowerment—a modern day women’s struggle with homelessness. Chantay White empowered the audience with her story and her enthusiasm.

All attendees received a copy of *Sacramento History Journal: An Annotated Illustrated Biography of Women’s Collections*, vol. III no. 4 & vol. IV no. 1, retained at the Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center. To order back issues contact: Sacramento County Historical Society, P.O Box 160065 Sacramento, CA 95816-0065 or visit www.sachistoricalsociety.org or phone 916-572-9858. By A. Ginosar

Events

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 6:30 p.m. Ethics, Transparency Redistricting Forum, 3600 Riverside Blvd

Thursday, May 7, 2015, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Cap & Trade Forum, Guild Theatre, 2828 35th St., Sacramento, **Pg. 3**

Monday-Tuesday, May 11-12, Unit meetings, **Pg. 5**

May 14, Thursday, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., [Women’s Empowerment Gala fundraiser](#) **Pg.7**

Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, LWVC Convention 2015, Westin San Diego, Gaslamp Quarter

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 6:30p.m. Ethics, Transparency...forum, Clunie Community Center, 601 Alhambra

Saturday, June 6, 2015, LWVSC Annual Meeting. Aviator Restaurant, Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, Photo, **Pg. 8**

**2014-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

A Message from the Co-Presidents

What an incredibly busy and productive year this has been! In reflecting on all we have accomplished together, it appears that our League members have an endless supply of energy, enthusiasm, and passion for civic participation.

Here is just a brief list:

Led the coalition of neighborhood associations and civic groups in a one year campaign using our position on city governance to soundly defeat Measure L, the “strong mayor” city charter change proposal, despite being outspent by \$1.1 million.

Studied homelessness in Sacramento County, joined a coalition, and will consider a new position via concurrence at our annual meeting.

Conducted 10 “Ethics, Transparency, and Redistricting Reform” public forums and are building a coalition of groups with the goal of a Council supported ballot measure for 2016. Next forums are May 6th at B’Nai Israel and May 27th at Clunie Center.

Participated in numerous Voter Services events, including moderating candidate forums, leading presentations on the pros and cons of the November 2014 ballot measures, answering phones at the Sacramento County Voter Registration Office on Election Day.

Hosted a Women’s Equality Day at the Wellspring Women’s Center that included an interesting presentation by a CSUS history professor, “A Century and More of Suffrage: Reflections on the Women Who Paved the Way.”

Together with Common Cause, at the Sacramento Central Library, hosted the film, “Pay to Play,” a documentary about the negative influence of money in politics.

Represented LWVSC with local organizations working in the area of climate change and air quality. Next Community Forum on “Cap & Trade”, May 7th Guild Theater.

Judged entries in the High School History Day competition.

Staffed tables at many events such as “Take Back The Night”, “Earth Day”, August peace event, voter registration drives, etc.

Held a dinner to celebrate Women’s History Month and the 75th birthday of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County at Plates Café, at which Lisa Culp, Founder and CEO of Women’s Empowerment, was the featured speaker.

And more...of course!

Many thanks to each of you for the part you played in making this a successful and productive year. What’s coming up next? Plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6th at 9:30 am at the Executive Airport on Freeport Boulevard. Enjoy a full breakfast. League members pay only \$5.00. The guest speaker will be Dr. Stan Oden, Sacramento State University professor, on local ethics, transparency and redistricting reform. See you there!

Best wishes, *Paula and Nancy*



Earth Day 4/19/15, South Side Park. C.Troka,
B. Hopkins, L. Martinez (Left to right)



P. Lee, L. Culp, N. Compton. 75th Anniversary.
(Left to right) Photo credit B. Hopkins

POSITION ON HOMELESSNESS

Presented by the LWVSC Committee on Homelessness

Co-Chairs: Alice Ginosar and Suzi Bakker;

Members: Barbara Hopkins, Liliana Martinez, Bill Lee, Elaine Lee, Kay Kneprath

BACKGROUND

We see them on street corners, in food lines, and by the river. We hear about children sleeping in cars or under bridges. To all appearances, the tragedy of homelessness seems to be growing in Sacramento County—even the suburbs of Carmichael and Elk Grove now have homeless individuals in parks and in food lines. Sacramento City and County have struggled to find ways to reduce homelessness, a troubling and complex socioeconomic phenomenon. Our county is not alone, homelessness has increased in cities and towns across the country over the last 25 years. Thousands of people of all ages have been displaced, cannot find affordable housing, depend on community services to help them find shelter, or live in the open on public lands. Though the causes of homelessness are complex and varied, a common denominator among homeless individuals is that they must find shelter and stability before they can address the root causes. The League of Women Voters, at the national (LWVUS), state (LWVC), and local levels, has supported government efforts to address many of the problems homeless people face. Currently, the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County (LWVSC) uses existing LWVC and LWVUS positions on Housing, Human Needs, Welfare, and Healthcare as the basis for league action regarding homelessness. For example, we have advocated both individually and as part of coalitions for affordable housing. For the LWVSC to become a more effective advocate, we need a more comprehensive League position. At the LWVSC's Annual Meeting in May 2014, members expressed the need for a focused position on homelessness, selecting "Homelessness in Sacramento County" as an issue for study and emphasis (2014-15). In June 2014, the LWVSC formed a Committee on Homelessness (ComHom) to (1) study homelessness in Sacramento County (2) educate members about homelessness and the many service providers working to address it and (3) propose a position to the membership that would address homelessness.

THE STUDY PROCESS

Early on, ComHom determined that using the League's consensus¹ process to develop our position would be too time consuming given the urgency of the issue, so we decided to use the League's concurrence² process to develop our proposed position. During our early research, we learned that the LWV of San Mateo County had studied and adopted a Homelessness Position in 1989 which could form the basis of a LWVSC position on homelessness. At the same time, ComHom began to learn about the many-faceted problem of homelessness from advocates and service providers and to consider ways in which the LWVSC might contribute to solutions. Following is a brief summary of ComHom's activities: we attended meetings of Sacramento Housing Alliance with whom LWVSC has participated for more than twenty years, we visited Loaves and Fishes, a service provider for thousands of homeless individuals in downtown Sacramento for over 25 years and we consulted with Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director of Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, an expert resource. Based on our research we have identified the following issues:

While homelessness, both nationally and in California has declined in recent years, the number of homeless individuals and families is too high. By one estimate³, in a single night last year, there were almost 578,000 homeless people in the U.S. with California accounting for almost 114,000 and nationally homeless families account for about 216,000 individuals of which 60% are children under 18. California's share of homeless families is 23,000 individuals.

According to biennial estimates for Sacramento County⁴, overall homelessness initially declined from 2,800 in 2009 to 2,358 in 2011, but then rose to 2,538 in 2013. More disturbing, though, is that homeless families rose from 543 individuals (2009) to 604 (2011) then to 801 (2013). In 2013, over 1 in 5 homeless individuals in Sacramento County was a child under 18.

Government has significantly contributed to the increase in homelessness, e.g., deinstitutionalization of state mental patients in the 1970's and failure to fund a corresponding need for supervision of the mentally ill in our communities in the 1980's.

Major federal cutbacks in community-housing grants and a concomitant decline in affordable housing in U.S., the economic recession and slow recovery from 2009 to the present and associated unemployment and veterans returning from years of war to a depressed economy.

Over the last few months, LWVSC members have: received information on homelessness and the progress of our study in the *Voter*, had an opportunity to discuss both the associated problems of and potential solutions to homelessness, and the proposed concurrence position and have been invited to attend the General Meeting and Community Forum on Homelessness on February 28 to hear from experts on homelessness and discuss ComHom's proposed concurrence position.

¹ CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue (*League Basics*).

² CONCURRENCE: Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League (*League Basics*).

Cont. from Pg.3

³ *The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress—PART 1 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness*—U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

⁴ *2013 Sacramento Countywide Homeless Count Report*—Prepared by Sacramento Steps Forward

FINAL PROCESS FOR ADOPTING LWVSC PROPOSED POSITION HOMELESSNESS

On April 2, 2015, the LWVSC's Board of Directors approved ComHom's proposed Position on Homelessness (below). The final step of the concurrence process is to publish the proposed Position on Homelessness in the *Call* announcing the Annual Meeting of June 6, 2015. The vote on whether to approve the LWVSC Proposed Position on Homelessness by concurrence will take place during the annual meeting. If adopted, the Position can serve as the basis for informing the community, testifying in local governmental meetings and advocating for legislation to reduce homelessness. Following is the proposed position.

LWVSC Proposed Position on Homelessness

- We support the decriminalization of homelessness.
- We support measures that provide for the needs of homeless people, with responsibility shared by the public and private sectors, with government assuming the primary role.
- We support the provision of permanent housing affordable to low-income persons as the main solution to the growing problem of homelessness.
- We support emergency, transitional, and long-term plans to meet the needs of homeless people. The primary focus should be on individuals and families who do not qualify for federal and/or state assistance programs.
- We support making public and private buildings available for emergency shelters where facilities meet health standards. Sacramento County and its cities should provide financial support to the private sector to develop long-term shelters.
- We support programs to help homeless people become self-sufficient, including: counseling, substance-abuse treatment, job training, educational and vocational counseling, child care, medical, dental and mental health services, tutorial programs, first month's rent and deposit assistance and transportation.

[Another Year Making Democracy Work](#)

April marked one year since the Supreme Court handed down its decision in *McCutcheon v. FEC*, invalidating limits on the total amount an individual can give to candidates and political parties. Coupled with the disastrous ruling in *Citizens United*, which led to the rise of SuperPACS, the voices of voters have been drowned out by the unlimited and secret campaign cash flooding our elections. It's no surprise that voters are losing trust in our elected officials and election process.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, recently said that our current campaign system is "being polluted by money" and that *Citizens United* was the worst decision made by the current U.S. Supreme Court...and we couldn't agree with her more. Look at the results. In January, the billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch pledged to inject almost \$900 million of private money into the 2016 campaign cycle. That would allow them to operate on the same financial scale as a political party—and puts the 2016 elections on track to be the most expensive in history. But there's one thing standing in their way. And that's concerned voters like you. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF LEAGUE.

[LWVUS Blog](#), Elizabeth MacNamara 12/23/2014

Submitted by A. Ginosar

May Unit Meetings

At the May Unit meetings members are invited to an exploration and discuss human trafficking. The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The League considers human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believes 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 abuses should be established and existing laws should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

NOTE: venue change for Mid-City and time change for Elk Grove units.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday May 11, 6:15 p.m.	Eileen Heaser 916-456-2154	449 San Miguel Way Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday May, 12, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner Helen Shryock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday May, 12, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday May 12, 12:00 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,

Climate Change-A Community Forum on Cap and Trade

by Rick Bettis

The LWVSC is a co-sponsor of a community forum on the “Cap and Trade” program, which is a key element of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This program puts a limit or cap on the emission of greenhouse gases from all major sources. If the emitter cannot stay within this cap it may purchase the temporary right to exceed the limit. The fees go to a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that can be used to fund other greenhouse gas reduction measures including public transportation and energy efficiency projects such as home insulation to reduce energy required for heating and cooling. The first year of this program received revenue of nearly one billion dollars and this is expected to increase next year. California law requires that 25% of these funds be used in disadvantaged communities.

This forum will provide information on the program and an opportunity to say how you would like this money to be used to make your community a healthier place. Panelist will include officials from state and local agencies including the California Air Resources board and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District.

The Forum convenes on **Thursday, May 7, 2015, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Guild Theater, 2828 35th Street, Sacramento** and is FREE. Participants will be provided a light free dinner provided by Yisearl Family Urban Farms. An online [RSVP](#) is required or call Katie Valenzuela Garcia of Breathe California Sacramento at 916-44-5900. For more information you may email kgarcia@sacbreathe.org

**New Member
Lindsay Nevis**

In Memory Of**Anne Mouer**

7/3/1917—3/15/2015

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Anne lived in several cities in California where she was an elementary school teacher. In 1982 she moved to Elk Grove from San Mateo and volunteered at the EG Elementary School Library, Friends of the EG Library, EG Food Bank and EG League of Women Voters, AAUW and other organizations. Abstracted from [Obituaries The Sacramento Bee](#) 4/3/15

For many years Anne delivered voter affidavits to several post offices in Elk Grove and in South Sacramento. Anne was very responsible in carrying out this task and a delight to talk with. E. Heaser

Miscellaneous**Coal Bust**

According to the March 21, 2015 issue of the *New Scientist*, author Fred Pearce “...carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels failed to rise in 2014...” “The amount of coal-fire power generating capacity is still increasing but the rate of increase is down from a peak of 6.9 % to 2.7% in 2013.” “The slowdown in CO₂ is largely caused by a slowdown in power being generated by coal.” page 16.

Risky Business the Economics Roots of Climate Change in the United States*[Boom to Bust? Climate Risk in the Golden State](#)*

April 2015,

A 70 page report published by the Risky Business Project

[Experts Warn of “Cataclysmic” Changes as Planetary Temperatures Rise](#)

By Dahr Jamail, Truthout Report, Monday, 27 April 2015

Water*[Water for a Sustainable World](#)**[The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015](#)***Voter Registration System**

California – Secretary of State Alex Padilla (D) [proposed](#) a voter registration system, modeled on [Oregon’s new law](#), which would automatically sign up eligible voters with a California driver’s license. Brennan Center for Justice 4/3/15

How Do We Fix American Universities

Monday, May 18, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, SPL, 828 I St. Sacramento. Gavin Newsom & Michael M. Crow. Moderator Cheryl Dell, Publisher, *The Sacramento Bee*

Women's Empowerment

At our 75th birthday gala on March 26, honoring our League's Founding Mothers who struggled to get the vote, Lisa Culp of Women's Empowerment (WE) reminded us that homeless women in our own backyard of Sacramento struggle to survive and to protect themselves and their children. Many are fortunate in wending their way to WE, where they are warmly received and offered job training. *The mission of WE is to educate and empower women who are homeless with the skills and confidence necessary to get a job, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and regain a home for themselves and their children.*

After spending 10 years helping extremely poor women in Nicaragua, Lisa Culp returned home to Sacramento and started working at Loaves & Fishes. What she observed shocked her: women who were poor in Sacramento were treated with contempt or were ignored, while in Nicaragua women who were poor were treated with dignity. In 2001, Lisa along with homeless women started WE, expressing their need for caring community to come together with the desire to end homelessness—for good. Now, after 14 years, WE has served 1,177 women and more than 2,500 children. In 2013, 81% of the women regained a safe home for themselves and their children and 90% of the women secured a job or enrolled in school/training. The women developed Job Training Kits; over 4,000 were distributed.

Chantay White shared her story of being homeless upon returning home to Sacramento after serving for years in the U.S. Army. Now a recent graduate of WE, Chantay is imbued with power and is currently enrolled in a masters program in marketing.

The need for programs like WE is great. Lisa told us of a 47% increase in families who are homeless over the last two years. Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, and accessories to WE to help women prepare for job interviews. Also attend their 14th [Annual Gala](#) on Thursday May 14. By Alice Ginosar

Seed Wars

There is a global "seed war" going on, with governments, corporate agribusiness and international aid donors against peasant farmers, food justice groups, students and trade unions, for control of the world's seed markets. Biotechnology companies (Monsanto, Syngenta, Dow, Dupont and Pioneer) are using the following strong arm tactics to eliminate any competition or objections:

- They use trade agreements, which they helped develop, and the threat of foreign aid cuts to force countries to open their markets to GMO seed.
- They declare local seed inferior, unhealthy, unreliable or illegal and thereby non-competitive.
- They literally steal indigenous seed, make minor changes and then patent it so that it is no longer free.

Everyday we find out more reasons why GMO seed is not a good answer to solving world hunger.

- It encourages large monoclonal industrial farms that destroy the soil, aid deforestation and worsen climate change.
- It requires large amounts of herbicides, fertilizer, water and pesticides which kill beneficial insects, pollute and make cost prohibitive for small farmers.
- There are fewer varieties of seed that are often unsuited to a particular area and result in low yields.
- Farmers must buy new patented seed each year.
- It causes antibiotic resistant bacteria and new types of super weeds.
- Glyphosate (Roundup) has been declared a human carcinogen and there is some evidence that it may play a role in autism.

In contrast, indigenous seed:

- Provides a diversified product better suited to each local climate.
- Has better resistance to flood or drought and local plagues.
- Requires considerably less fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides.
- Can be saved, shared and used for successive harvests, assuring better food security and sovereignty.

All these things make native seed a cheaper, healthier, and more climate friendly alternative. Through tremendous efforts, the indigenous small farmers in El Salvador, Chile, Mexico and Ghana are making progress in this war to keep their traditions of local seed use. Others are sure to follow. By Elaine Lee

Katherine Paul—*Sorry, Monsanto: The Science Is On Our Side, Not Yours.*

Ian Fitzpatrick – *Secretive and Seedy: How Aid Donors are Opening the Agribusiness Flood Gates*

Lauren McCarthy – *Saving Seeds: Farmers Rise Up Against Industry-Backed Laws*

Dahr Jamail – *El Salvador Farmers Successfully Defy Monsanto*



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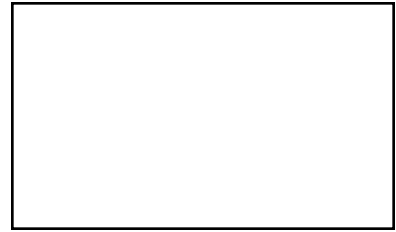
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Annual Meeting at Aviator Restaurant

LWVSC Board Membership

To volunteer for nomination or to recommend a member contact
Roseanna Torretto, Chair, LWVSC Nominating Committee, at
nominating@lwvsacramento.org.

