



The Sacramento Voter

May 2016



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Co-Presidents' Report*

Happy Spring! Lots of "good seeds" planted by LWV Sacramento and cared for by our members, are sprouting.

- League members completed a state study on the affordability and accessibility of higher education including a wonderful public forum moderated by Nancy Compton and panel guests including the President of Sacramento State University, Robert Nelson. Five members of AAUW attended and future collaboration conversations began.
- The first of our four good governance recommendations for the City of Sacramento, and Independent Redistricting Commission, has been approved by the City Council's Law and Legislation Committee. This charter amendment will be on the November 2016 ballot if approved by the City Council. The LWVSC collaborated with California Common Cause on this amendment.
- The City Council's Homeless Task Force members, Jay Schenirer, Steve Hansen and Jeff Harris, will be presenting their recommendations at the City Council meeting April 26th.
- The Voter Service Committee is in high gear this election season. Voter Service Director Louise Einspahr and team have planned candidate forums for mayoral & Board of Supervisors races as well as many voter registration events. Catherine Troka will be representing the LWVSC with an Earth Day table April 24th, Southside Park. Claudia Bonsignore will be our VotersEdge Coordinator.
- Unit Coordinator Bill Lee has provided units with excellent materials to educate members on the topic for the month. Have you been to a unit meeting and discussion lately? The schedule appears in every issue of *The Voter*.

Save the date for the Annual Meeting- **Thursday, June 2nd, 5:30, Wellspring Women's Center.** Sister Judy and the Center will open their doors for us at 5:30 p.m. after a day serving women and children in the community.



AGENDA

- Conversation, Wine, Water and Heavy Appetizers/Light Dinner
- Adopt our "Issues for Emphasis" for the upcoming year.
- Adopt a budget
- Elect our Board of Directors
- Look for the *Call to Annual Meeting*

The LWVSC Annual Meeting *Call* will be emailed or sent US mail providing details. The meeting will convene Thursday evening instead of the usual Saturday morning. We need you there to VOTE and accomplish our agenda for the evening.

*Paula & Nancy

EVENTS

Monday-Tuesday, May 9-10, 2016. Unit meetings. Page 3

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mayoral Forum, Sacramento County Board Supervisors, 700 H Street, Sacramento, Page 2

Thursday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. [Remember the Ladies: The Real Struggle for Women's Suffrage](#). McClatchy Library, 2112, 22nd St. H. Skinkle & G. Mulligan presenting

Thursday, June 2, 2016, 5:30 p.m. Annual LWVSC meeting. Wellspring Women's Center, 3414, 4th Ave. Sacramento. **AGENDA** above.

2015-2016

Board of Directors**League of Women Voters
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Comm.Catherine Troka, Membership Rec-
ords

Voter editor– Alice Ginosar

Voter publisher– Eileen Heaser

www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento**The Voter Service Committee at Work**

- Two full days of staffing tables at American River College, Natomas Campus – Tuesday April 5th and Monday April 11th. Suzanne Phinney, Karen Redman, Inger Lindholm (AAUW), Lynette Shumway, Sarina Pera (CSUS student volunteer), Mahnaz Khazari, Bernadette Lynch, Roseann Kirby, and Louise Einspahr participated. We learned a lot and enjoyed the experience of helping college students prepare to vote in the upcoming elections.
- Outreach to seniors on election issues at the following sites: Chateau on Capitol, April 30th, Oak Park Community Center, April 30th, and Older Women's League, May 14th. Rick Bettis did all three of these important events, we appreciate his efforts. Always ready and willing.
- Presentation April 20th, at the Holiday Inn, Sacramento. The LWVSC received a request from the California Department of Aging for a speaker to help with training managers of long-term care facilities around the state regarding voting rights and the importance of voting at all ages including residents of long-term care facilities. Claudia Bonsignore and Bernadette Lynch volunteered for this important job.
- At this writing we are looking forward to three forums on May 7th convened in the Supervisor's Chambers: 9:00 am – 9:30 a.m. District 3 supervisorial forum co-sponsored by LWVSC and Metro Cable; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. the mayoral forum co-sponsored by Midtown Alliance, Metro Cable and LWVSC, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. District 4 supervisorial forum co-sponsored by Metro Cable and LWVSC. Paula Lee will moderate the mayoral forum and Trisha Uhrhammer, the District 4 forum. Timers: Lilliana Martinez and Charlene Jones. Greeters: Kae Lewis, Kacey Dominguez and Susan Johnson. **Needed: a moderator for the 9:00 am District 3 forum, a timer for the 9:00 a.m. forum and more greeters**
- Lots going on with the Voter Service Committee. I am so appreciative of all the volunteers who have come forward. Saying thank you doesn't seem to be quite enough. We will all have to celebrate after the November election. We always needs more woman power, so if you haven't yet volunteered please put your name in to be a part of all this important work. Louise.Einspahr@gmail.com or 916-395-2145. By Louise Einspahr

The Sacramento Bee and Disney

Iconic bee, "Scoopy," is the symbol of industriousness that was chosen by the McClatchy family to represent *The Sacramento Bee*, founded in 1857. Eleanor McClatchy, one not to be ignored, nagged Walt Disney to draw the bee in the 1940's. The mission of *The Sacramento*

Bee, as told by President and Publisher Cheryl Dell on March 31 to over 200 long-time subscribers, is to help Sacramento "be a better place." Four purposes hang on long banners in the lobby of *The Bee's* building at 21st and Q Streets: "We create connections," "We watch the powerful," "We share interesting information" and "We save you time and money."

As is the situation with newspapers throughout the US, ads taken out by businesses are decreasing, the number of subscribers are going down, and the cost of printing and distributing is going up, creating deficits and resulting in staff layoffs. Currently the cost of the printed *Bee* is covered 50% from ads and 50% from subscribers. However, the cost to subscribers keeps increasing. The result is a crisis in the newspaper industry. While there are over one million readers of the printed *Bee*, there are over five million readers on-line. This is despite the fact that the articles in the newspaper are more in depth than on-line.

Ms. Dell and the other administrators are very concerned about this crisis and are dedicated to insuring that printed newspapers continue. To assist that goal, when on vacation, donate your *Bee* to "Newspapers in Education" thereby exposing young people in our schools (sometimes as many as 20,000 youth) to the print version.

How to evaluate the readers' interest: it is so easy to determine interest in articles on the web. The large computer screen in the newsroom ticks off the number of internet readers that are on at any given time. During the tour we could watch the numbers increasing. At 11:15 a.m., 776 readers were scanning on-line content. The number of people who

Cont. page 6

May Unit Meetings

Women in Science

In light of our commitment to women's equality, the subject of our May Unit meetings is Women in Science. I've selected articles from the American Association of University Women's, *Outlook*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *National Geographic* for your review and discussion.

The articles focus upon the obstacles women and girls face toward their gaining a successful place in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We'll explore the issues surrounding the question: "Why are there so few women in STEM?" by examining the social and environmental factors that shape girls' interests and achievements, social beliefs and stereotypes, effects of implicit and explicit biases, overt and covert discrimination, etc.

Unit venue changes for May in RED. Unit meetings will resume in September.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday May 9, 6:15 p.m.	Catherine Troka 916-446-5933	1211 25th St. Sac. downtown
Morning Suburban	Tuesday May 10, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner Helen Shryock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday May 10, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Williams 916-447-4984	4804 Crestwood Way Sacramento, CA 95822
Elk Grove	Tuesday May 10 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,

Some Questions to initiate discussion:

- Should girls be encouraged to strive for a career in STEM – i.e., Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics?
- Why is there a continuing bias against women in STEM?
- How would you rate your Mathematics experience?
- Does gender handicap women and girls in STEM?
- Are there any advantages for women to enter STEM?
- Have your attitudes changed toward accepting female doctors?
- Are women as biased as their male counterparts? Submitted by B. Lee

PROP 50 Suspension of Legislators

SUPPORT: The League of Women Voters of California recommends a "Yes" vote on Proposition 50. This constitutional amendment will give the Legislature clear authority to discipline Senators or Assembly Members by suspending them without pay. Lawmakers should be able to hold their own colleagues accountable if they breach the public's trust. Two years ago, three California Senators were charged with criminal offenses. The Senate found that under current law those individuals could be suspended, but their pay and benefits could not be withheld. This commonsense measure was then placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support. The requirement for a two-thirds legislative vote on a resolution that states the reasons for suspension will ensure this authority will not be misused for partisan purposes. *LWVC News* 3/31/16, see also: [Easy Voter Guide, June 7, 2016](#) Submitted by E. Heaser

Money in Politics: New Approaches to an Ongoing Issue

Money in politics: we talk about it a lot, and this year is no exception, as we face the prospect of more and more dollars flooding our political system. For the first time in years, California will have an impact on both parties' presidential candidate selection, so campaign spending will increase. And the November ballot could have fifteen or more propositions—each with campaigns for and against that could raise and spend millions of dollars. What's a person to do?

The LWVUS board has just announced our new position statement on Money in Politics, based on study by League members around the country. In addition to the traditional reason for regulating campaign financing—preventing corruption and undue influence in government—the League now supports several other goals:

- Enhance political equality for all citizens
- Ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process
- Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns
- Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices
- Ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections
- Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office
- Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public

At the national level, the League has called for a major restructuring of the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The FEC is paralyzed by its current structure, and even our weak federal laws go unenforced. Read more at [Federal election Commission must be Restructured.](#)

At the state legislature, the League is working for three bills that address our goals:

- SB 1349 (Hertzberg) would overhaul the outdated Cal-Access online system for campaign finance and lobbyist reporting and disclosure. Rebuilding Cal-Access will give Californians needed information about the sources and use of money in politics.
- AB 2523 (Mullin) would require a limit on the size of contributions in all local campaigns. California sets contribution limits for election to the legislature and statewide office, but fewer than 30 percent of cities, counties, and districts have limits on election donations. There have been numerous examples of candidates running for local office receiving \$20,000, \$50,000, or even \$90,000 contributions, while other candidates may be dependent on just a small number of donors.
- SB 1107 (Allen) addresses a barrier that keeps California governments from exploring innovative approaches to campaign funding. Since 1988, a ban on public financing in elections has kept all but charter cities unable to try programs like those recently supported by voters in Maine and Seattle. This bill would not create a public financing program, but it would restore local control to those local governments that want the flexibility to try new systems.

And finally, the LWVCA, in partnership with MapLight offers the new [Voter's Edge California](#) as its predecessor Smart Voter did in the past. Voter's Edge California provides unbiased, in-depth voting information on candidates and ballot measures. We've added campaign funding information and Spanish translation to state and federal races and expect millions of Californians to find what they need to make informed choices this year. By Trudy Schaffer

Time for Plan B to Save the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

The San Francisco Chronicle, April 7, 2016

By Lois Wolk (D) CA, Senate, represents Napa and Solano counties, most of Yolo County, and portions of Sonoma, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties.

Plan B

- Reducing demand through increased efficiency and conservation
- Metering all uses of water
- Applying modern technologies for operation, measurement and groundwater basin cleanup
- Managing groundwater basins for reliability and storage
- Modernizing levees
- Reducing water exports from the delta based on science and an independent State Water Board, while ensuring export reliability

These approaches would spend fewer government and ratepayer dollars and result in a more sustainable solution. The Water Fix project is misnamed, as it fixes nothing. Submitted by E. Heaser

In Memory Of

Virginia S. Mueller

4/27/1924-3/14/2016

Virginia Mueller was Sacramento County's first female district attorney. Originally from Palo Alto, Virginia lived in several states and France before settling in Sacramento in the late fifties. She was a prosecutor and defense attorney for 63 years beginning in 1946. Attorney Mueller was a teacher and a mentor for many young women entering the field. She earned her law degree from Cornell Law School and a doctorate from the University of Paris. Virginia was active in many local, national and international organizations and the League of Women Voters. She held leadership positions in many of these organizations. She served from 1983-1991 as the first woman commissioner for the Sacramento-Yolo Port District Commission. In 2002 she received the life-time achievement award from the National Association of Women Lawyers. By Cathy Loche, *The Sacramento Bee*, 3/27/2016, 2B. Submitted by E. Heaser

Re-envisioning Our Broken Food System*

“The U.S. government has never before had a national food policy, let alone one that seeks to align federal agricultural policies with national public health and environmental objectives. Were the President to adopt such a policy, and by executive action establish the mechanisms for its implementation, the impact could be enormous on three of the most critical issues of our time: health care, climate change, and economic equality.”

Some features such a policy might include

- Promoting greater production of seasonal fruits and vegetables at the regional level and providing equal access to credit and loan guarantees to all farmers, especially young, beginning, and organic ones.
- “Re-solarizing” the food production system by getting off the fossil fuel and huge monoculture diet common today and employing diversification of crops.
- Appointing a national food policy advisor.
- Redirecting agricultural research and extension programs to study and promote regional diversified farming systems based on agroecological principles.
- Rethinking livestock production by eliminating routine non-medical antibiotic use and ending subsidies for confined feeding operations. These operations should be penalized as any other factory for emissions and pollution.
- Launching a “Farmer Corp” to educate a new generation of farmers.
- Using existing antitrust laws to restore competition in food markets including: seeds, grain trading, animal feeding, meatpacking and supermarkets.
- Establishing a federal grain reserve.
- Ensuring fair wages for farm labor, and enforcing existing worker safety rules.
- Expanding farmers’ markets by providing grants.
- Prioritizing regional producers in federal food procurement contracts.
- Requiring municipal and institutional composting.
- Promoting food education as a part of a school curriculum.
- Supporting maximum transparency in food labeling.

*“Re-envisioning Our Broken Food System,” Mark Bittman, Olivier de Schutter, Michael Pollan, and Ricardo Salvador. *Catalyst* Vol.15, Winter 2016, Union of Concerned Scientists. For more information see: [Plate of the Union](#) or “Memo to the Next President” published in [Medium.com](#) Submitted by Elaine Lee

Immigration Workshop -Volunteers

JINA Immigration Legal Services, is hosting a Citizenship Workshop May 21. Fran Eldredge (916 285 6565) coordinator, Tom Swift and Ken Iritani (son of Frank Iritani, former League member) are volunteering. If you want to help with the Workshop, there will be a training from **8-10 a.m.**, the Workshop will follow—**Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Centennial United Methodist Church, 5401 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, CA**, sent by Ken Iritani, 916 996 8611

Cont. from page 2. *S. Bee*

stopped even a minute are counted. *The Bee* staff can easily see how many readers are electronically perusing a given article. **Only 1 minute** is the length of time average readers spend scanning an article on-line. It is so much harder for readers of the print newspaper to be counted. The print version is more in depth and by its nature invites reading for longer periods of time with coffee and pen in hand. By Alice Ginosar

Water, Fire, Climate

The Water and Fire: Impacts of Climate Change Conference at CSUS on April 10-11, 2016, was organized by the CSUS Environmental Studies Department and the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP). The ISGP is a Washington D.C. based “think tank” that conducts studies and conferences on various issue with the purpose of informing public policy with science based credible and balanced information.

The purpose of the Conference, which was attended by approximately 150 policy makers and activist from central and northern California, was to evaluate the potential impact of climate change on water resources and wildfires in our region.

The key presenters spoke on the following topics

- Dr Roger Bales of UC Merced: more complete and real time data and analysis to insure water security in an era of climate change.
- Dr. Christina Swanson of the Natural Resources Defense Council: science based balanced policies to achieve water security for people, fish and wildlife.
- Dr, Jon Keely of the US Geological Survey: future threat of wildfires and the effects of climate change
- Dr Frank Lake, Native American educator: role of tribal knowledge and traditional practices for addressing climate change and the effects and water and fire.
- Chief Ken Pimlott, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: technical advances in the field of fire protection, such as the use of satellite monitoring, and how his department is using climate change cap and trade funding to increase readiness.

All conference participants met in small working groups to developed consensus based responses to policy related questions.
By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director.

Sacramento Regional Stem Fair

I was privileged to be a volunteer judge at the Sacramento Regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Fair (STEM) for middle and high school students held at American River College on April 1-2. The Fair included over 450 projects representing a very wide range of subjects including projects on electronics, geology, biology, chemistry, engineering, and the behavioral sciences. Judges included engineers and scientist volunteers from the private sector technical firms such as Intel and Synopsys, and various state and federal agencies. The student competitors were from schools throughout the region and representing the diversity of young scholars from the Sacramento area. As a sign of our times and progress, there were more young women competitors and winners than young men. In the two categories in which I judged the top five were young women scholars. Their projects included:

- An experimental study on which colors of light in a greenhouse resulted in the most robust growth for different types of plants
- The effectiveness of preserving seeds for food crops by freezing
- The tolerance and response of various plants to use of recycled “greywater’ for irrigation
- The effect on cognitive abilities of listening to different types of music
- The effect of clothing type and style being worn on impressions and treatment in various setting, such as different retail stores

Overall the Fair left me and the other volunteers with a feeling of hope for our future when these young scholars will be leaders in our communities and beyond. By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

Mutual Housing Partners with Sacramento's LGBT Community

Last summer, Mutual Housing California, a nationally recognized nonprofit that develops affordable housing for a diversity of residents, purchased an empty parcel at 16th and F streets in Sacramento. Long vacant, the corner is intended to continue Mutual Housing's innovative approach to quality and sustainability by creating affordable LGBT-welcoming homes to 53 households whose occupants are age 62 and older.

A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force study in 2010 estimated there were 3 million LGBT Americans over the age of 65 and that number will double by 2030. Unfortunately, studies reveal that LGBT elders experience discrimination in health and social service delivery and in housing. Seniors report being victimized by staff and residents of care and support facilities. Upon moving into traditional senior communities, LGBT elders may feel compelled to go back into the closet after years of living out and proud. Many are also afraid to reveal their sexual identity or gender preference to service providers and health professionals, making it difficult for them to get appropriate care and referrals.

They are twice as likely to be single and living alone. In a 2011 national LGBT health study, more than half of respondents had been told by a doctor they had depression.



Artist's rendering Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing.
Photo: Courtesy Mogavero Architects.

Mutual Housing has also led the state in building with environmental sustainability, including rooftop solar, green building materials and water-efficient plumbing. Lavender Courtyard would be four stories and include a commercial space on the ground floor and a courtyard with a barbecue area. The design also includes a community room, parking garage on the ground floor with apartments on the three floors above. Units in the project would be designated for seniors making 30 to 60 percent of median income in Sacramento County.

Currently in the planning and design phase, development of Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing is estimated to take from two years to five years, depending upon the speed at which Mutual Housing can raise necessary financing. Securing the funding is difficult to assure successful project completion, when state and federal governments have significantly reduced funding for affordable housing. An LGBT leadership committee provides advice to Mutual Housing and assists with educating the public about the project. For more information and to get involved, contact: 916.453.8400 X 251. LavenderCourtyard@mutualhousing.com www.mutualhousing.com/lavendercourtyard By Charlene Jones

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to 'One Person One Vote'

WASHINGTON — The [Supreme Court unanimously ruled](#) on [April 4, 2016] that states may count all residents, whether or not they are eligible to vote, in drawing election districts. The decision was a major statement on the meaning of a fundamental principle of the American political system, that of "one person one vote." "We hold, based on constitutional history, this court's decisions and longstanding practice, that a state may draw its legislative districts based on total population," Justice [Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) wrote for the court.

As a practical matter, the ruling mostly helped Democrats uphold the status quo. Until this decision, the Court had never resolved whether voting districts should contain roughly the same number of people or the same number of eligible voters. Counting all people amplifies the voting power of places that have large numbers of residents who cannot vote legally — including immigrants who are here legally but are not citizens, illegal immigrants and children. Those places tend to be urban and to vote Democratic. By Adam Liptak, *The New York Times*, April 4, 2016. Submitted by E. Heaser

Power of Letters

If you are interested in volunteering to write emotional support letters to women with breast cancer, LWVSC member, Gina Mulligan, has a website ginamulligan@girlslovemail.com Submitted by G. Mulligan



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Book Notices

Game Changers: Twelve Elections That Transformed California, Steve Swatt, et al, were the winners of the 2014 California Historical Society award. This book looks at twelve elections in California that changed the State, spanning the years of 1861-1990. As stated by Prof. Cain, in the Forward...”an enjoyable read that I’d make mandatory reading for students of California History.” I heard these authors discuss the book recently at a Sacramento History Society event. Interesting information on the political “players” over the years.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, Matthew Desmond, Harvard sociologists who won a 2015 MacArthur genius grant to support this work. He chronicles the eviction patterns in Milwaukee over a two-year time. Forced moves affected one in eight renters. Eviction results in job loss, creates poverty and pushes people into neighborhoods with less economic opportunity. “Unlike a generation ago, the number of poor households in the U.S. now far exceeds the number of affordable housing units.” pg. 28. Desmond thinks a solution would be “...a vast increase in government housing vouchers.” pg. 28. ARTS. Review of Reviews: Books. *The Week*, 3/18/16, pg. 28. Submitted by E. Heaser



Google Images 4/18/2016

