



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER



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Homelessness Forum 2/28/15 Well Spring

photo by B. Hopkins

Events

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 p.m. LWVSC Board Meeting, Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.

Monday, April 13, 11 00 a.m. Health Care Lobby Day at State Capitol. Pg.4

Monday-Tuesday, April 13-14, 2015. Unit Meetings, Pg. 5

Sunday, April 19, 2015. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Earth Day, Southside Park, 7th & T St., Sacramento. Sign up for a 2 hour shift. -Catherine Troka 916-446-5933 ctroka@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m. ETR, Congregation B’Nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd.

Saturday, June 6, 2015, LWVSC Annual Meeting —TBA

2014-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
1107 9th Street, #300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-447-8683
lwvs@lwwsacramento.org
www.lwwsacramento.org

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Join Our Leadership Team!

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



A. Ginosar, B. Hopkins, Sr. Judy, L. Martinez, S. Bakker
2/28/15 Homelessness Forum @ Well Spring

New & Returning Members

Bob Ely

Anne Fletcher

Carol Feenstra

Charma Thomas

Vivian Skintauy

Community Forum on Homelessness in Sacramento County

If you were not among the 61 people on Saturday, February 28 who attended the LWVSC'S Community Forum, you indeed missed out on learning valuable and startling information from and being inspired by the panel of experts. **Christina Del'Nero**, currently a student at American River College, was homeless with her two children for seven months before she met Sister Judy of Wellspring Center and finally received a voucher for a motel. After being sheltered and finding a home, Christina was able to return to school and is now realizing her dream to become a social worker.

Liana Luna, now Outreach Coordinator at Mustard Seed School, graduated from Family Promise after her addictions and imprisonment led to her children and herself becoming homeless.

John Foley, Executive Director of Sacramento Self Help Housing (SSHH). reported that there were 2,538 homeless individuals in Sacramento County in January 2013.

SSHH is helping individuals and families find housing five days a week at Loaves & Fishes and one day a week at Wellspring. It is a downward spiral— people cannot pay rent unless they receive some type of government assistance for housing. To qualify a person needs to have a problem with substance abuse or mental illness.

Maya Wallace is the Director of External Affairs at Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), a non-profit agency managing the \$7.5 million funds from the Housing & Urban Development (HUD) agency. SSF coordinates with Sacramento City and County and Sacramento Housing Rehabilitation Authority. She reported that the group "Common Cents" is helping all organizations develop a single intake system. There will be 12 "navigators" fanning out through the County starting in those areas where the mortality rate is high.

Joan Burke is the Director of Advocacy at Loaves & Fishes (LF) which provides hundreds with a daily meal. A shower and clothing are provided, too. The first priority is to house homeless people and families. At the LF campus they can start receiving substance abuse treatment, health and mental health services, job training, and vocational counseling. LF does not receive any government funds. Their volunteer donations are \$5 million per year. LF is in a unique position to offer services to any homeless person or family in need. LF is a "refuge" for families like Christina's who did not qualify for any government assistance.

Brendan Repicky, Legislative Assistant for Assembly member **Ken Cooley**, informed the attendees about AB 870 that Cooley is sponsoring to build "rapid housing".

When the speakers concluded, we held a general meeting to discuss the proposed concurrence position on homelessness developed by the LWV San Mateo County. League members will vote on the proposed position at the Annual Meeting on June 6; the position will be in *The Call*. By Alice Ginosar

HEALTH CARE LOBBY DAY

Monday morning, April 13, 2015 is the annual lobby day in Sacramento, sponsored by California Healthcare Provider Student Association and attended by many other organizations including the League of Women Voters, supporting legislation for healthcare reform via Single Payer. This year Senator Ricardo Lara, Los Angeles County, is sponsoring a bill to subsidize healthcare for all California residents through either MediCal or an exchange, covering those who are not eligible for the Affordable Care Act coverage. Please join LWV California at Lobby Day at the State Capitol. For more details contact Li-hsia Wang lihsiawang@gmail.com

[The People's Voting Rights Manifesto](#)

Issued March 8, 2015, at the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March.

Click on the link to read the manifesto, from *League Update* 3/5/15

Book of Interest

Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement by Robert P. J. Cooney Jr. 2005. Looks at the history of the **women's suffrage movement** in the United States

New from LWVC — free downloads

[How Voters Get Information: Best Practices Manual for Official Voter Information Guides in California 2015](#)

April Unit Meetings

For our April Unit Meetings, members are invited to explore voter apathy, its causes and what affects voter turnout. Members will examine the Public’s immediate response to the question: “What causes voter apathy?” Also, members will look at some psychological factors that motivate voting. Local League members are aware that too many candidates avoid presenting their position on issues. They fear their answers may be held against them at a later date. Political parties encourage telling “their stories.” As a result voters are frustrated when they believe their interests are not represented.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday April 13, 6:15 p.m.	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday April 14, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner Helen Shryock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday April 14, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday April 14, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Contact Bill Lee , Unit coordinator, 916-688-5360, units@lwvsacramento.org OR oogie2lee@comcast.net if you are unable to attend the Unit meetings but would like to receive emails of the Unit discussion materials,

Some Questions for Discussion:

- How has redistricting affected your representation?
- Do you believe you are adequately represented in the House of Representatives, the US Senate, the State Assembly and Senate, and the City Council
- What is the effect of gerrymandering on voter turnout?
- What do you believe are the major causes of voter apathy?
- What efforts do your representatives make to solicit your concerns?
- What ideas do you have for increasing voter turnout?
- What has been the effect of the Supreme Court’s decision on Citizens United on voter apathy?
- What will be the effect of the recent Supreme Court’s decision on the Voting Rights Act? Is the court too political?
- Does the Supreme Court’s political leaning affect voter turnout?
- Does negative campaigning suppress voting?
- What affects your voting – i.e., church, political party, organizations, newspapers, magazines, friends, polls, etc.
- How much of current campaigning focuses on fears based upon race, gender, nationality, etc.?

Climate Change and Geo-engineering

By Rick Bettis

This writer recently participated in a webinar conducted by Resources for the Future (RFF) on the subject of Climate Engineering or Geo-engineering.

Most of what we read regarding responding to climate change concerns “mitigation” which addresses policies and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emission thereby “mitigating or preventing” human caused climate change. Next we are considering “adaptation” which concerns changes in infrastructure such as building or raising structures to protect from sea level rise and more larger storm events.

This webinar concerned a recent National Academy of Science (NAS) report that concluded that more research is justified on climate engineering. This approach entails actions on a larger scale more technically complex, higher risk projects. However the current mitigation and adaptation programs may not be sufficient to prevent potentially major impacts on our health, economy and environment.

There are many visionary geo-engineering approaches including the following examples of solar radiation management by:

- Dispersing sulfur dioxide or hydrogen sulfide aerosols to the stratosphere.
- Increasing cloud reflectivity by spraying with seawater.
- Deployment of aluminized balloons or mirrors in the atmosphere
- Reflective panels on land and light colored “cool roofs”
- Spraying ocean surfaces with reflective foam with microscopic bubbles.

Another geo-engineering approach is the capture, transmission and “sequestration” or storage of greenhouse gas emission by:

- Vegetation and soils including peat soils, forests, and wetlands
- Injection to a deep underground rock storage area overlain for very solid rock formations.
- Algae and phytoplankton in areas of the oceans that have been fertilized using iron, phosphorus, and urea .

All of the above and other alternative climate engineering approaches are subject to potential negative unintended consequences, however the NAS concluded that we need to cautiously proceed with analyses of these options.



While Washington Considers Reform, American Public Still Holds Misconceptions on Crime

“Movement on criminal justice reform in Washington remains promising, but halting. In Congress the bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act is opposed by Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Ia.), reported [The Washington Post](#), which cited a recent [Brennan Center report](#) as part of a “mountain of evidence” that mandatory minimum sentences are not effective at reducing crime. “Lawmakers should recognize that the only way to stem the flow of people out of prison is to reduce the numbers going in,” wrote **Nicole Austin-Hillery** and **Jessica Eaglin** at [MSNBC](#), “including sentence lengths,” which the Smarter Sentencing Act would accomplish.

...many Americans are unaware of the dramatic decline in crime nationwide over the last two decades. “What the data shows is that despite decreasing murder rates and decreasing attention (at least in some newspapers), the public still believes crime is rampant,” wrote **Oliver Roeder** and **Lauren-Brooke Eisen** at [The Huffington Post](#). “Crime across the nation is at an all-time low.” For [Al-Jazeera America](#), **Julia Bowling** examined common misconceptions about crime, citing data showing that crime rates are not rising, over harsh penalties do not deter potential offenders, and increased incarceration is no longer working to reduce crime. In a special criminal justice-related edition of [Politico Magazine](#), Eisen and Roeder created an infographic showing that a diverse set of states, including California, New York, South Carolina, and Texas have successfully reduced both crime and incarceration. Read more at [The Intercept](#), [VICE](#), and [The Week](#).”

From-Brennan Center for Justice brennancenter@nyu.edu retrieved 3/18/2015. E. Heaser



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1107 9th Street, Suite 300

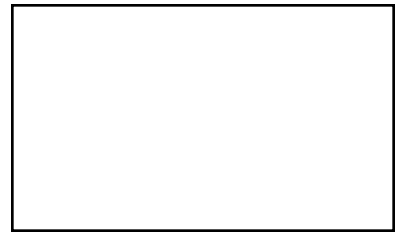
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

www.lwvsacramento.org

E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org



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