



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER



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Membership Social 2/14/15 @ Wellspring. P. Lee, Prof. T. Clark, speaker, N. Compton  
Photo credit: B. Hopkins



## Events

Monday-Tuesday, March 9-10, 2015. Unit Meetings, pg. 5

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m., City of Sacramento, Ethics, Transparency, Redistricting Reform (ETR). South Natomas Library, 2901 Truxel Road

Monday, March 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m. Sunshine Week, Forum, (ETR) Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m. City Council election District 6, Metro Cable, Board Chambers, 700 H St. Pg. 2

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 6:30 p.m. ETR, Robbie Waters Pocket Library-Greenhaven, 7335 Gloria Drive

Thursday, March 26, 2015, 5:30 p.m. LWVSC 50th birthday. Plate's Restaurant, 14 Business Park Way, Bldg. 149, Depot Park off Fruitridge Road. Pg. 2, 3 & 7 for the flyer—**DEADLINE- Monday, March 23, 2015**

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](mailto: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  
[lws@lwsacramento.org](mailto:lws@lwsacramento.org)  
[www.lwsacramento.org](http://www.lwsacramento.org)

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[www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento](http://www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento)



## Join Our Leadership Team!

LWVSC Board Membership

To volunteer for nomination or to recommend a member contact Roseanna Torretto, Chair, LWVSC Nominating Committee, at [nominating@lwsacramento.org](mailto:nominating@lwsacramento.org).



## March is National Women's History Month.

The 2015 Theme is *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*. All 2015 **National Women's History Month materials** are available in the NWHP webstore or at [www.womenshistorymaterials.org](http://www.womenshistorymaterials.org)



## Why I Joined the League of Women Voters

I knew of the League from the state ballot arguments but joined because an active member got me involved in the update of the League's energy position. After that I continued my membership because I got to know the local LWVSC members. Now I'm retired and interested in the history of the suffragist movement. I don't take for granted the work of the League founders in getting women the right to vote.

By Mignon Marks

## New Members

Robin Howlett

Nell Ranta

Cont. from pg. 1 City Council District 6 special election. There are two candidates, Eric Guerra and Bruce Pomer. The forum on March 19 will last about 30 minutes.. H. Smith [hollysmith77@gmail.com](mailto:hollysmith77@gmail.com)

### Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment March 26, 2015

Women's History Month, the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday of LWVSC, and the power of networking will be celebrated on Thursday evening, March 26, at 5:30 p.m., when we gather at Plates Café for a festive evening. Several local women's groups and civic organizations have been invited to join us as well. (See enclosed flyer page 7 for details)

Our speaker will be Lisa Culp, founder of Women's Empowerment, a local nonprofit organization that educates and empowers women with the skills and confidence needed to gain employment, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and regain a home for themselves and their children.

Plates Café is itself an example of our community helping women to succeed. Operated by St. John's Shelter for Women and Children, Plates offers on-the-job training for formerly homeless women with children. Participants in this program develop valuable job skills that will help them obtain gainful employment in the hospitality industry once they complete the program.

This event will include a Silent Auction, a Sharing Table for invited groups to display their promotional materials, and background music from 5:30 to 6:15 provided by Dr. Bach and the Jazz Practitioners, a group from the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society.

- What you can do:
- (1) **Plan to attend** and invite a spouse, friend, neighbor, or anyone who would enjoy a festive evening;
  - (2) **Complete the tear-off sheet on page 7 and send** to Event Registrar Elaine Lee, 8622 Shasta Lily Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624 with your check– **DEADLINE-Monday, March 23, 2015**
  - (3) **Contribute** to the Silent Auction by contacting Claudia Bonsignore at [morsignore@comcast.net](mailto:morsignore@comcast.net) or (916) 421-6412.

One of the services provided by Women's Empowerment is assisting women with clothing appropriate for entering the world of work. If you have gently used items such as pants, blouses, sweaters, suits, belts, scarfs, purses or accessories that you no longer use, they would be very much appreciated. You may bring them with you to this event and they will be collected and presented to Lisa Culp.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Compton at (916) 600-1992 or [ncompton43@att.net](mailto:ncompton43@att.net).

### Impacts of Ozone, and Climate Change

This writer testified at the day long February 2, 2015 US Environmental Protection Agency public hearing in Sacramento on their proposed ozone pollution standard update. A highlight was compelling testimony by forty-five high school students from the Coachella Valley following a nine-hour bus ride.

Ozone pollution has been determined to have very significant health impacts on children, the elderly, those with any lung disease such as asthma or emphysema, and those at risk of cardiovascular disease. EPA studies indicate that reducing ozone pollution may reduce asthma attacks by as much as one million per year and premature deaths by nearly 5000 per year. In addition there will be significant ecosystem benefits. Harmful ground level ozone effects include interference with plant food production, damage from severe weather and susceptibility to disease. EPA studies demonstrate substantial economic benefits from lowering the ozone standard from the current 75 parts per billion:

For a standard of 70 ppb cost would be \$3.9 billion while benefits would be \$6.4 to \$13 billion  
For a standard of 65 ppb cost would be \$15 billion while benefits would be \$19 to \$38 billion.

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These benefits could be higher since climate change warming will accelerate the chemical reaction that results in the formation of ozone from precursor emissions: nitric oxides and volatile organic compounds. In addition, the ongoing aging of our population will place a larger numbers of us at higher risk

Based on a reasonable “precautionary principle” clean air advocates are calling for a lower standard of 60 ppb. You are urged to submit comments to EPA by the March 17, 2015 deadline. Comments can be submitted online at [by email to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov](#) or Comments should refer to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0699. If you have any questions you may contact me at [naturalresources@lwvs.org](mailto:naturalresources@lwvs.org) By Rick Bettis

### Our Own Orphan Disease

The Central Valley and parts of Arizona and Texas are home to a disease called Valley Fever or “cocci.” This non-contagious disease is caused by spores of a fungus found in the soil of arid and semi-arid areas. The spores are inhaled through the nose and mouth; it is not contagious. Cocci was first documented in 1893, but it has probably been around for millennia. G.I.s contracted it while building WWII airfields around Fresno and a German prisoner of war camp was relocated because of it. They did not, however, relocate the Japanese Internment Camp in Arizona. Many doctors are still unaware and/or baffled by the disease and often misdiagnose it as pneumonia or tuberculosis. Approximately 20,000 Americans per year contract cocci, and up to 170 die, but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says this number is likely to be under estimated. The incidences are rising as farming, drought, construction, and climate change are creating more dust and spore releases.

Approximately 60% of those who inhale the spores will have no symptoms and about 35% will display a flu-like reaction. It is believed that these groups may then be immune to the spores. The other 5 to 10% can have the spores fill up their lungs and spread into the blood stream. From there it can get into the organs and cause chronic pain, high fevers, and exhaustion. If it spreads into the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, death is likely. There is no cure but drugs can help mitigate the progress of the disease. While anyone can get Valley Fever, those most susceptible are African Americans, Filipinos and Pacific Islanders. The most likely place for these groups to contract cocci is in prison.

Unfortunately 16 of our states adult prisons are in the Central Valley and eight are in hyperendemic areas. The number of minority prisoners and guards infected is growing and until recently, timely diagnosis and treatment was almost non-existent. The CA Dept. of Corrections has been snail-like in implementing the advice offered by the CA Dept. of Public Health and CA Correctional Health Services to mitigate the problem. The prison wardens always found other places to spend their money. Recently, under court orders, they have begun to act. There are new ventilators, door seals, and signs about the dangers of dust inhalation where needed and inmates are set for screening starting in January 2015. The most susceptible prisoners are being moved to safer prisons and there is movement toward helping victims pay for medication. They may be free, but they have a cocci life sentence. Since 2005, 4,000 CA inmates have contracted Valley Fever and 53 have died. Many of the survivors will have devastating symptoms that will go on for years. From David Ferry, “The Fever” in *Mother Jones* – January-February. 2015, summarized by Elaine Lee

### March Unit Meetings

For our March Unit Meetings, members are invited to discuss the affordability and accessibility of Higher Education. Our principle focus will be on California’s tripartite system of higher public education. We’ll also review what it costs to attend the top Universities in the USA and the costs of higher education in the top eight countries.

**The LWVC study materials will be available in August for the higher education state study.**

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

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

The December-January *The Progressive* magazine, is a special issue on the privatization of education. Articles are short and easy to read. Not all articles are available online---just the highlighted ones.<http://www.progressive.org/content/dec-jan-2014-issue-table-contents>

**California:**

In the 1950s, California operated a comprehensive tripartite public system of higher education which consisted of research universities, 4-year undergraduate campuses, and open access community colleges. In 1960 the State instituted the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Members are encouraged to read the **California Master Plan for Higher Education** by Wikipedia This article furnishes a comprehensive view of California's Public Higher Educational system for post-secondary education - i.e., defining specific roles for the already existing University of California, the state colleges, and the California Community College System. This plan envisioned California's pioneering spirit and was the envy of many states and foreign countries who used it as a model for their own endeavors.

**University of California:** [www.UniversityofCalifornia.edu](http://www.UniversityofCalifornia.edu) 233,000 students, 190,000 faculty & staff on 10 campuses, dedicated to education and research, world-class classrooms and labs. Tuition 2014 - 2015 \$12,192 annual for residents. Overall cost including tuition, books, board, and transportation @\$30,000 annually. Over 2/3 of the students receive gift awards of @\$16,000 annually.

**California State University:** [www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu) @440,000 students; and 45,000 faculty and staff - a leader in high-quality, accessible student focused education with 23 campuses. It is the largest, most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. Annual tuition is @ \$5,472.

**California Community College System:** [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu) 112 community colleges in 72 districts with 2-4 million students. This is the largest system of higher education in the world. Annual fees and tuition leading to an associate's degree is @\$1600 annually (\$46 a unit). Students can start their undergraduate programs at a community college and later transfer their units to the University of California or California State University.

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Questions to Initiate Discussion at unit meetings:

How does the current situation regarding the cost of higher education contrast with your experience?

What were the original intentions of California's Master Plan?

Are the original intentions of California's Master Plan still in effect?

What should be the goal of higher education – technical skill, vocational training, better quality of life, etc.?

What are the advantages of a European education? Summary from B. Lee

### Children's Advocates Roundtable

A primary focus of the January 22, 2015 Children's Advocates Roundtable meeting was -Continuum of Care Reform. Presented by Will Lightborne, Director and Greg Rose, Deputy Director, Division of Children and Family Services, California Department of Social Services (DSS). The reform effort began with meetings of a task force of stakeholders. The DSS report has been issued and is on the Department's website. The conclusion is that children belong in home-like settings, not congregant facilities. Plans include limits on length of stay in group homes, tight monitoring of the use of chemicals, and a transition plan to lower levels of care with services following the child into the new setting. The goal is to move foster children out of group homes to family-based settings and limit group homes to short term intensive settings to stabilize youth that need it. The focus will be on quality of care in group homes and the various lower levels of homes that now exist will be eliminated, leaving one to provide this quality care. The unique challenge of realignment concurrent with hoped for changes was acknowledged.

Stakeholders also discussed the DSS report. There is some concern that the savings part of the equation, eliminating stays in group homes, may be implemented while the cost part, developing quality home-setting placements, may not. The report does not address rate structure for home settings nor changing categorical groups. There will be a need to beef up the family based side, but funding for that is minimal in the report. The needs of probationary youth, homeless youth and sexually exploited youth are not addressed as yet, nor is the overuse of psychotropic drugs.

By. B. Carr

### Human Trafficking Conference

On February 17, 2015, My Sister's House sponsored a human trafficking conference at CSUS: *Not On Our Watch: Ending Human Trafficking Together*. What is human trafficking (HT): forced labor, forced sexual exploitation and state imposed forced labor. It is difficult to know exact number of incidents of HT as numbers are based on arrests only. Globally, according to the State Dept., 27 million people are enslaved. The largest number of cases involve forced labor- 14.2 million or 68%, sexual exploitation -4.5 million or 22% and state imposed forced labor- 2.2 million or 10%. If the person "cannot walk away" from the perpetrator that is HT. There is a misconception that HT only involves Nationals and/or the need to cross international borders. People are trafficked within the United States, when in route to another country, during smuggling in the U.S., after placement in a family, during waiting periods for legal relief or upon return to their home. Victims are recruited by way of newspapers, family, friends, word of mouth, etc. Barriers to escaping HT are culture, language, physical and sexual abuse, fear, low self-esteem, isolation and commitment to pay off debts.

The breakout session on "Immigration Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking," was led by two staff attorneys from the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants. They discussed the T visa and U visa. The T visa (the result of the 2000 passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act –TVPA) is issued for individuals who are victims of sex or labor trafficking. The victim must have been forced, coerced or fraudulently taken. If under eighteen the victim does not have to prove force, coercion or fraud. The U visa is issued to noncitizens who are assisting U.S. authorities investigating crimes. There are many other criteria that must be met with each of these visas. It can take years to be able to apply for a green card or asylum. Generally the person can work in the U.S. for a specified time while this process is happening.

Several local speakers imparted information about California laws and local agencies that assist victims. One speaker told of her experience as a runaway and being trafficked and her eventual escape from her captors. At least ten agencies had booths displaying materials for how they assist victims. By E. Heaser



**The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County  
presents**

***“Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment”***

**In observation of Women’s History Month, the 75th  
Birthday of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County  
and the power of networking**

**This evening will include:**

- \* A Sharing Table for invited groups to display promotional materials/flyers about their organizations and events and related materials**
- \* A Silent Auction**
- \* Presentation of winner, Women’s History category —High School History Day**
- \* Music by Dr. Bach & the Jazz Practitioners**

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**To respond, please use this tear sheet and send with your check payable to  
“LWVSC” to**

**Elaine Lee, 8622 Shasta Lily Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624.**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact number / email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How many will attend from your organization?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you be bringing printed materials to share? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**Questions? Contact Nancy Compton at (916) 600-1992 or [ncompton43@att.net](mailto:ncompton43@att.net)**

**Day / Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015**

**Time: 5:30 p.m. — Networking; no-host bar**

**6:00 p.m. — Buffet Dinner**

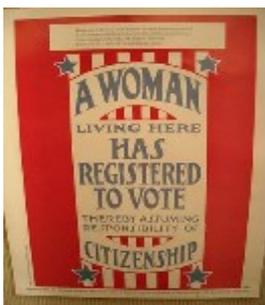
**6:30 p.m. — Program**

**Location: Plates Café, 14 Business Park Way, Sacramento**

**Cost: \$30 includes buffet dinner**

**Speaker: Lisa Culp, Founder / CEO of  
Women’s Empowerment**

**DEADLINE Monday, March 23, 2015**





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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**Voter Affidavits Delivered to Post Offices**

Thanks to the volunteers who delivered affidavits to post offices and other public institutions during 2014: S. Bakker, P. Cody, N. Compton, M. Futrell, P. Lee, C. Troka and yours truly. **TOTAL 12,829** By E. Heaser

**Springtime**



Google images 2/19/15