



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

September / October 2015

Calendar 2015

Wednesday	Sept. 9	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirel's House
Saturday	Sept. 26	Fall League Day (see Flyer inside)	10 AM - 1 PM	Westminster Presbyterian Church 1757 Lake Ave. Pasadena, CA
Saturday	Oct. 3	Tri-League Meeting		
Wednesday	Oct. 14	Board Meeting	Noon	Nell Mirel's House
Thursday	Oct. 15	Human Trafficking	8:30 AM - 11 AM	Peninsula Center Library
Tuesday	Oct. 27	Money in Politics	7 - 8:45PM	"New" Manhattan Beach Library

Save the Date - January 16, 2016 - Consensus for Money in Politics

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This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

Once again we are picking up the pace of our activities. As the summer ends we say goodbye to our summer interns and cannot thank Julie Craemer and Pat Colby enough for getting this program started for us and for helping these amazing young women start us in a new direction. In the end there were four of them, Kylie Murdock, Rachael Ku, Samantha Perez and Lilli Carlsen. Among their accomplishments was updating our website, setting up an "awesome" Facebook page, interviewing some of our accomplished members and some of the city majors as well as giving us feedback and "Trainings" on social media. What an impressive, energetic group!! We could not be more pleased. We hope to continue with this program in the fall and will keep you updated on our plans as they evolve. If you are on Facebook we urge you to look us up and "like us". This is the way an organizational Facebook page is spread.

We are actively now participating in two studies. Jo-Anne Waller is our chairman for the national study of Money in Politics Study. Please call her if you want to be active in the committee. We are joining with Torrance and Beach Cities leagues for this study and there will be a presentation in Manhattan Beach on October 27. The educational state study is under the able supervision of Pat Colby in our League and as events are planned—we will let you know. Already Pat has organized several interesting presentations about various aspects of education but we are still waiting for material for the state study to arrive.

National League adopted a statement on Human Trafficking at the last convention and many leagues have had educational presentations on this topic. We are joining with the Chamber of Commerce for a presentation on October 15. We are also joining with them again this year for our "Elected Officials" Party on Friday November 15 at the Interpretive Center.

We are trying to make some new changes to our Voter this fall. Since we do not have routine monthly meetings for our members, we will try and give you updates on portfolios of the board. Of course you are always welcome to attend any board meeting you wish. These are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at Nell Mirels' house. Also please let us know if there is something we can add to the voter to make it more useful for you.

Katy Watkins (310-408-6211) and *Vi Jungerich* (310-541-5092)
Co-Presidents



Portfolio Updates

Education Portfolio Update by Pat Colby

The LWVC Committee on Public Higher Education in California plans to release study materials in September 2015; consensus is due May 2016. All local Leagues are encouraged to participate in this high priority area of investigation.

A complaint filed by attorneys with the Public Employment Relations Board alleging that leaders of the largest charter school organization in Los Angeles violated state laws by denying pro-union organizers access to school buildings after work hours, distributing documents that criticized unionization efforts and blocking emails to employees. Alliance College-Ready Public Schools and United Teachers Los Angeles, are battling over efforts to unionize teachers at the charter schools.

A prominent local education group, The Broad Foundation, is discussing a major expansion of charter schools in Los Angeles aimed at boosting academic achievement at the lowest performing campuses. Detail are unavailable but charter school leaders have met with the Broad Foundation, the Keck Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation and others that support independently run charter school.

With the number of UC applicants at a new high, California residents faced tougher odds of gaining acceptance into next fall's freshmen classes. A record number of students from other countries and states, meanwhile, received offers of admission. About 60% of the 103,117 California applicants were offered a spot on at least one of UC's nine undergraduate campuses—a record low acceptance rate, down from about 63% of the 99,995 applicants last year and about 79% in 1999.

Children Portfolio Update by Vi Iungerich California Poverty and Children

In July the state budget increased money by \$300 million for preschool slots. Currently there are 31,500 needy 4 year olds unable to attend preschool. These monies will provide for an additional 9,500 slots (7000 full day and 2500 part-time slots). In addition these monies will also provide 6,800 vouchers for licensed day-cay providers and increase non-licensed providers with a 5% increase. This is to help meet the needs of 200,000 eligible families. The budget has also

moved this budget item into prop 98 which funds the needs of K-14 children. Although these additional monies are helpful—we still have too many families needing help even though studies show this education pays off big-time later in children completing high school and doing well.

Another recent study shows that our poor children are better off in some areas, and in other areas we are falling behind. In 2010-2013, 23% of the children lived in poverty compared to 18% in 2008. Likewise food insecurity has been rising. In 2013, 34% of children were being raised in employment insecure homes compared to 32% in 2008. On the plus side more children are now able to get adequate health care and in the area of food the state has a program called Cal Fresh to help family obtain fresh vegetables and fruits. However, of all the eligible families—only 59% are currently getting food stamps for this program.

Land Use Portfolio Update by Pat Rome

We received approval from LWVC to sign the petition to the EPA requesting information and clarification from Rancho Plains. After our League signs it, we will send a letter to the editor explaining our response. We watched a documentary on the Politics of Water. Cindy Kondon has the other DVDs on the History of Water which we will view on August 27th at Cindy's. We discussed how to share these videos with a larger audience since water is such a hot issue right now. We also discussed how to get "in the loop" of city planning departments. Too often, by the time we learn about something, it's too late.

National Program Update – Advocacy by Arlene Block EPA Announces Final Carbon Regulation

In August, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and President Obama unveiled the final regulation limiting carbon from coal fired power plants! **The Clean Power Plan** will improve public health, save lives, create jobs and protect our environment. League supporters have generated over 90,000 comments and letters supporting this regulation. Show your support by [signing our thank you card to Gina McCarthy and Pres. Obama](#) thanking them for their leadership on this regulation.

Also see our [press release](#) and [blog](#) for more information on this life-saving regulation.

Higher Education Forum at Los Angeles Central Library

by Pat Colby

On June 29, 2015, at Los Angeles Central Library, Taper Auditorium, the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs sponsored "The Road Ahead for Higher Education" in conjunction with co-sponsors Center for California Studies, Sacramento and the League of Women Voters, Los Angeles. Attendees included a broad spectrum of university and community college administrators, teachers and students and approximately 30 members from various Leagues of Women Voters. Prior to panel discussions, the audience viewed an excerpt from a documentary about Governor Pat Brown directed by his granddaughter, Sasha Rice. The clip focused on Brown's commitment to free higher education for Californians and his role in the development of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. The first panel discussion, entitled "Pat Brown and the History of the Master Plan," described the chaos that existed prior to the Plan's development and how a three-tiered system was formulated under the finalized Master Plan: The UCs would be institutions of research and issue PhDs; The CSUs would provide four-year undergraduate training and the community colleges would educate those seeking a trade or transfer to four-year institutions. The Master Plan earned acclaim for its innovative approach to ensuring access to an affordable and quality higher education. The second panel discussion entitled "A New Master Plan? A New Model?" pointed out that 60 years later, California's population has doubled and diversified; demographic and economic trends have spawned inequalities across regions. In 1960 only a small fraction of high school students went to college; today most people need some education or training beyond high school. The Master Plan shaped a discussion about three institutions; today's plan must shape a discussion about the needs of Californians. Currently there is no strategic plan.

What are our state-wide goals for education today? And shouldn't they reflect demographic diversity and the underserved student? With the impact of technology, work force demands have changed and many jobs will require a bachelor's degree. This, in turn, brings up the issue of access. 77% of post-secondary education occurs at the community college, yet, the community colleges have been adversely affected by Proposition 13, the high cost of books, increased tuition, the difficulty of transfer to four-year institutions, students holding jobs while attempting to complete their studies and the fact that Pell Grants/Cal Grants have not kept pace with student needs.

California ranks 29th among states in the percentage of young adults with an associate degree or higher; ranks 45th in bachelor's degrees awarded per population, ages 18-24; enrolment in colleges ranges from 25% - 54% across regions of the state; 40% of whites, ages 25 and older, have a BA or higher vs. 22% blacks and 11% Latinos.

The panel suggested that a **regional consortium** be established for each major economic region of the state to devise strategies to increase college and career readiness, access and completion and to align higher education with regional economies. Those making regional decisions would include major public and private post-secondary institutions in the region, representatives of K-12 schools and regional employers. This consortium would develop plans based on regional needs and identify the roles of regional institutions for meeting these needs. **The Office of Higher Education** would ensure regional plans collectively meet state needs, advise the governor about such educational policies and ensure accountability to tax payers for a quality, cost-effective system of higher education.

SHEILA KUEHL, LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR SPEAKS AT POPOVERS

By Pat Colby

Sheila Kuehl, newly elected L.A. County Supervisor, was the keynote speaker at the LWV/LA County annual Popovers luncheon in Pasadena on July 18, 2015. People often ask of her new job, “How’s it going?” “What’s the county of L.A. really like?”

If the county were a state, it would be the 8th largest in the USA. Each County Supervisor represents a constituency of about 2 million people and together they oversee America’s largest local government agency, with a \$28 billion budget and 100,000 employees. An L.A. County Supervisor has the same responsibilities as the state: mental health, public health, transportation/highways, foster children, juvenile justice, the largest local jail (Men’s Central Jail in downtown L.A.), libraries, parks, beaches, the L.A. River, reasonable housing and environmental issues. The Board sets policy, passes laws and provides oversight. The Board is like five people running the state of Ohio with no legislature.

Kuehl’s Third Supervisorial District alone encompasses most of the San Fernando Valley, Conejo Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains all the way to the Ventura County Line. Cities in the diverse area include Santa Monica, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Westlake and Hidden Hills. Many of the city’s most prominent cultural institutions are located in this district, the Hollywood Bowl and the L.A. County Museum of Art, for instance.

With the retirement of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors CEO, William Fujioka, the Board has voted to reduce the powers of the incoming CEO so that Board members can consolidate power by directly managing departments. Kuehl says the Board has been elected to lead and that is what they intend to do. This new authority also gives the five board members the authority to hire and fire department heads and work more directly within county government’s myriad agencies. However, this cannot be done by a single

individual. Kuehl has a staff of 30 deputies, each assigned to a specific area, to monitor and report on her districts’ wide-spread, complex responsibilities.

“Even before I ran for State Assembly in 1994”, Kuehl told her audience, “I was an attorney, law professor, domestic violence victims’ advocate and managing attorney of the California Women’s Law Center working on issues about which I cared passionately. Every day, throughout all those years, I was struck by the incredible impact that government policy has on the lives of real people—how governmental decisions could make people safe or not, treat them fairly or not, give them a helping hand or not, open education, training or job opportunities, or not. I’ve put all I’ve learned into each of the elected positions I have held. In addition, as the first openly gay or lesbian elected to the California legislature, I learned one person can make a difference, by speaking for those who have no voice.”

So what is the day to day for Sheila Kuehl like? She has never been so busy or so happy in a job where at each Tuesday’s meeting, the Supervisors review some 80 items on the agenda ranging from raising the wage level in unincorporated areas of L.A. County to recommendations made by the Citizens’ Commission on Jail Violence to the consolidation of three separate health departments into one. To understand the complexity of just one of these items, consider the health consolidation proposal. The move would integrate the departments of public health, responsible for controlling disease outbreaks, managing substance abuse programs and conducting health inspections and mental health with the Department of Health Services, which runs county hospitals and clinics—all under one director. Such an undertaking involves hundreds of employees, the ever-expanding needs of a growing population and compliance with state and federal mandates as they apply to public services.

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And the agenda goes on: a review of the 60 reforms recommended by the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence after 20 sheriff's deputies were placed under indictment on corruption and civil rights charges; discussion on plans to replace Men's Central Jail with a correction facility designed to offer integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment (Kuehl questions whether individuals could be treated in community-based facilities rather than jail); concerns about 30,000 foster children in her district; issues of homelessness and hope for changed lives through the Skid Row Housing Trust which provides permanent supportive housing; increased crime in the Northeast Valley that some link to Proposition 47(certain low-level, non-violent crimes now charged as misdemeanors) which Kuehl suggests is co-existent—cross the street and the sun comes up—one action does not necessarily create another; policies to help the formerly incarcerated to find jobs; MTA expansion and security; increasing traffic, zoning and water.

Amid all the agenda demands, Kuehl's primary concerns as a new supervisor include additional funding and resources for three major areas: reforming the jails and improving mental health services in the criminal justice system, greater protections and services for kids in the county's child welfare system and improving delivery of services. She has a congenial relationship with her fellow supervisors and recommends patience and understanding in a job of this magnitude. While in the California Senate, a particularly homophobic senator publicly referred to her sexuality in a crude manner. Shortly afterward, Kuehl walked up to this senator and put her hand on his shoulder. He looked up at her as she said with a smile, "It's catching!" Yet, she and this individual found common ground on certain legislative bills and as he got to work with Kuehl and know her as a champion for those less empowered, he became a supporter. The morale of the story, she says, is to listen; to understand the other guy and perhaps make him your ally.



**Human Trafficking Symposium
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015**

8:30 a.m. Coffee and Registration

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Program

Peninsula Center Library Community Room

The Palos Verdes League, AAUW, Children's Defense Alliance and PVP Chamber of Commerce have joined together to present a community meeting on the prevalence of Human Trafficking. Please join us and be sure and invite those who also may be interested in the vastness of Human Trafficking today and the possibilities of appropriate intervention.

(There is a possibility of a location change but we will keep you informed via email).

MAKE IT FAIR CAMPAIGN

by Linda Herman

The LWVC is part of a coalition of organizations currently involved in a campaign to revise Proposition 13. The goal is to close the commercial property tax loopholes enabling us to continue to invest in our schools and important local priorities. We seek to make California's tax code fair to all by phasing out loopholes in Prop. 13. These loopholes have allowed a handful of giant corporations and wealthy commercial property owners to dramatically lower their obligations to California's families.

Our goals are simple: make commercial property taxes fair by reassessing commercial and industrial property at fair market value so that we raise the revenue we need to fully fund our schools and community colleges, strengthen public safety and affordable housing, fix our roads, build transit, offer small businesses tax relief, keep parks and libraries open and maintain other vital services.

Since the passage of Prop. 13 the tax burden has been shifting away from giant corporations and wealthy commercial property owners to middle class homeowners and renters. Our reform will reverse this trend and help rebuild California. We will also:

- Fully, 100% protect homeowners, renters and owners of agricultural land,
- Provide tax relief for small businesses, and
- Include tough transparency and accountability measures. We're part of a strong grassroots coalition which is spreading the word about the need for commercial property tax reform. You can find out more about the campaign by logging on to www.MakeItFairCA.com.



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

2015 Fall League Day Voter Outreach

Saturday, September 26, 2015

10 AM to 1 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1757 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA
626-794-7141



Luncheon at Morrison Hall
w/Scrumptious Array of Sandwich Choices

*Including vegetarian choices
from the Heirloom Café in Pasadena*



- **Get Out the Vote**
- **Resources for Local Leagues**
- **Reaching Non-Voters**



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC** Call 310-479-7482 for info
Mail to **LWV/LAC** County Arrangements, **Sandra Trutt**, 1508 Greenfield Ave., #207, LA 90025
Sign up online using PayPal at lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org.

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Reservation(s) postmarked before Sept. 18th # _____ @\$20.00 Total Enclosed \$ _____

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - An Inter-League Organization
Antelope Valley • Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier



Join The League!

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWW PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWW PVP*

Membership Form

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (work/day/cell) _____

Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

\$65.00 one member

\$32.50 additional member in the same household.

Dues are tax deductible. LWW PVP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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