

Top stories in this newsletter



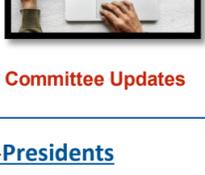
Letter from LWVBC



May Events



Volunteer Opportunities



Committee Updates

Letter from the LWV Beach Cities Co-Presidents

May is here! Flowers are blooming and we have had a couple of really hot days! The days are getting longer and people are getting more optimistic that we will not experience the worst case scenarios for the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you everyone for being smart and sheltering in place! We will be doing it a while longer and plans are still in flux.

But some League decisions have been made! We will continue our local league activities on Zoom. If you haven't tried it please do!! It is actually pretty easy to figure out and once you do it you feel very accomplished!

We will have our Board meeting on May 11. If you are interested in joining let me know and I will send you the link! Our Third Thursday mixer will be on May 21 and Barbara will be sending out the link closer to the event. Book Club will be May 28 and we are very excited that the author, UCLA professor emeritus, Ellen Dubois will join us! The book is *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*. It should be a fun discussion even if you haven't had time to read the book! An interesting twist is the Spanish flu epidemic in 1918 almost derailed the women's progress in getting the right to vote!

Of note is that LWVUS has made a final decision on this year's Convention. Unfortunately we cannot meet in D.C. as planned, but the Convention will go on! It will be a virtual meeting on June 26-28. This has some good news because more people can "attend"! More details will follow in our June Newsletter.

Stay healthy! Stay safe! Stay connected!
See you on Zoom!

- Barbara Arlow and Joan LeSage
Co-Presidents of the LWV Beach Cities

Final Thank You to All Non-Event Contributions!!

Jane Affonso	Marilyn Dubas	Penny Markey	Vivian Rahe
Martha Andriani	June Eicker	Ann Martin	James Stewart
Barbara Arlow	Debra Estroff	Melen McBride	Carole Wagner Vallianos
Cecilia Ball	Catherine Fox	Jane Munson	Diane Wallace
Peggy Bartlett	Susan Grebe	Michelle Murphy	Carolyn and Ray Waters
Don & Suri Brann	Jeannie Hamilton	Jan Nathanson	April Halprin Wayland
Mark Burton	Ruth Hart	Teri Neustaedter	Lance Widman
Paulette Caudill	Maureen Kelly	Sunhee Park	
Harriet Chase	Joann Kennelley	Wendy Phillips	
Barbara Doss	Joan LeSage	Vanessa Poster	

May Events

- **Board Meeting - 5/11/20, 7-9:30pm Via Zoom**
Please send an email to Joan or Barbara if you would like an invite.
- **May Book Club - 5/28/20, 7-8:30pm, Via Zoom**
"Suffrage - Women's Long Battle For the Vote" Join the author, Ellen Dubois, for an interesting discussion. An email will be sent out with the zoom invite.
- **Member Mixer: 5/21/20, 7-8:30pm, Via Zoom**
Come meet new people while still practicing safe social distancing over zoom. Watch your emails with a zoom link.
- **US Census:** Don't forget to complete the census at my2020census.gov
- **Need Covid 19 information and local resources?**
This comprehensive guide was put together by One Degree and Cal State Los Angeles Masters of Public Health students, and is being updated regularly. Check it out and keep it [bookmarked!](#)
- **Annual LWV Meeting:** postponed, watch your emails!
- **We Need Your Suggestions!**
Do you have an idea for a local program that would be of interest to our League members? All members of the LWV Beach Cities are encouraged to suggest topics for local programs in areas of interest. Recommendations may be sent to Barbara Arlow gerbar92@msn.com 310-379-6663 or to Joan LeSage sage.joan@gmail.com 310-854-2254.
- Questions? [Contact us anytime!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



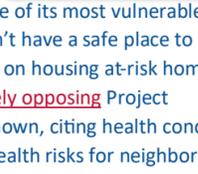
The LWVBC's Nominating Committee, chaired by Penny Markey, will soon begin the process of compiling a slate of Board members for the 2020-2021 program year. In this election year, the League will play an important role. We will be actively engaging our communities in the electoral process, conducting candidate forums, registering voters and more. We will be conducting forums and providing information on important civic issues as well as encouraging our citizens of all ages to vote!

If you've ever considered taking a more active role in the League, now is the time! We want to hear from you. We want to learn from you. Positions are available on the Board of Directors as well as various working committees such as voter services, membership, homeless, environmental, and education issues, etc. After all, any organization is only as strong as its volunteers. If you're interested in helping with those efforts, contact Penny at pennymarkey@gmail.com or 310-379-9972.

- **Join the board by becoming the Secretary to the Board!** The League's longtime secretary to the Board is leaving her position. It is an important leadership post. We need a person who is able to attend the monthly Board Meeting; take notes and compile minutes. Board meetings are the second Monday of each month at 7pm.
- **Looking for a creative, flexible position?** We need Publicity, Photographers, and Newsletter contributors. Please contact Ashley Kruchdele at ashley.kruchdele@gmail.com
- **NEW POSITION! Newsletter Editor** Contact Ashley Kruchdele at ashley.kruchdele@gmail.com
- **Interested in Voter Service activities?** Contact Barbara Arlow gerbar92@msn.com or for Voter's Edge support <http://votersedge.org/ca> contact Joan LeSage sage.joan@gmail.com
- **Join a Social Policy Committee**
 - Education –Jeanne Hamilton jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com
 - Housing/Homelessness –Teri Neustaedter tmufic@gmail.com
 - Natural Resources/Climate Change - Grace Peng spikey@gmail.com
 - Health and Wellness - Harriet Chase hzchase@roadrunner.com
- **Join the Book Club** led by Debra Estroff Dbestroff@mednet.ucla.edu
- **Meet up at a Member Mixer** set-up by Arnette Travis arnettettravis@gmail.com
- **Become a New Member Ambassador....** even if you are new! Welcome new members and invite them to league events. Contact Ann Kuhns annkuhns@verizon.net

Please send all membership updates and ideas to Ann Kuhns at annkuhns@verizon.net

Committee Updates



- **Homelessness— Learn about Project Roomkey:**
L.A. County (with the help of significant federal funding) is [renting hotel and motel rooms](#) for some of its most vulnerable residents who are vulnerable to COVID-19 but don't have a safe place to isolate. In the South Bay, COG efforts are focusing on housing at-risk homeless seniors. Unfortunately, some local cities are [actively opposing](#) Project Roomkey, as the protective housing initiative is known, citing health concerns. Cities' claim that the initiative creates increased health risks for neighborhood residents and customers patronizing local businesses. In actuality, the [proposed immediate housing](#) would be staffed with security and medical personnel as well as on-site meal services, and people housed there would only be able to leave the premises in designated vehicles, would not be permitted visitors, and would be required to self-quarantine and follow all isolation protocols.
Governor Newsom [spoke out against](#) the resistance to Project Roomkey, saying, "Cities blocking these efforts — please consider the morality of those decisions," and announced that he is in talks with the state legislature about the possibility of purchasing some of the hotels and motels in question and converting them into desperately-needed long-term affordable and supportive housing.
According to Everyone In, LA County United Way backed leadership, often too much is made of the opposition we see. There is a vocal minority dwarfed by a quiet majority. Be sure to get the facts on any homeless efforts you hear about, especially as it pertains to all Angelinos' safety, during the pandemic and beyond.
- Our team meets every 6-8 weeks to work on educational updates for our members and local residents; we also coordinate support for service projects. Most team members work with other organizations actively involved with homelessness and housing, bringing that knowledge back to the League. Email [Teri Neustaedter](mailto:Teri Neustaedter at tmufic@gmail.com) at tmufic@gmail.com or call (913) 568-5466 if you're interested in joining our group!
- **Natural Resources— Written by Grace Peng**
Right now, we are dealing with two large problems that expose the flaws of our systems. Some of the same operators are actively disseminating misinformation about both climate change and COVID-19. The American Association for the Advancement of Science just accepted a paper analyzing the results of 6,990 studies about climate change mitigation strategies. [The plain English summary](#), and the [full paper by Diana Ivanova et al](#) are open access. In short, the biggest drivers of climate change are transportation emissions. The biggest impact intervention is for people to get around without cars (walk, bike, eBike, eScooter, transit.) Those that must drive a car, should switch to an electric car or use the most fuel-efficient vehicle needed for the task.
Helping people make less carbon-intensive transportation choices requires societal-wide cooperation. LA County officials have drawn a road map, the [OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#), that follows these best practices. We are fortunate to have officials and staff that follow the science and act accordingly. But, we need to keep showing up at meetings to push electeds to do the right thing and to give planning professionals political cover to implement these needed changes in the face of vocal and well-funded opposition.
The opposition never sleeps. **Right now, they are working hard to add local planning factors back into the SCAG Regional Housing Needs Assessment.** Local planning factors sound like a good idea—who would be opposed to giving residents input on the shape or their community? In practice however, it means that cities that have been the most successful at fighting inclusionary housing get assigned a lower housing need based on prior demonstrated inability to produce housing.
COVID-19 is another example of seemingly plausible but wrong ideas gaining traction. Because the New York City area is currently the hardest hit in the US, it's easy to assume that density and transit use is to blame for spreading the disease. However, that doesn't explain why much denser Asian capitals have not shared the same fate. Even looking at the NYC metro area, it's hard to explain why relatively low-density Staten Island and Westchester County have the highest COVID-19 infection rates. In Los Angeles, both high density neighborhoods such as West Hollywood and Little Armenia, and low density neighborhoods such as Bel Air and Palos Verdes Estates share the highest infection rates.
There is a preponderance of evidence that exposure to air pollution increases the likelihood of death should one contract COVID-19. Those who lived in the areas with [highest air pollution were twice as likely to die](#) from (COVID-19 coronavirus cousin) SARS. A [similar pattern appeared in Italy](#) with a case mortality of 12% in the areas with the highest air pollution and 4.5% elsewhere. We cannot all seek shelter in private cars because there is simply not enough room for all of us on our limited roadways and we would choke from the resulting air pollution.
As we shelter in place, let us think about those who can't. Who has to go to work despite being provided little or no protection from infection? Who doesn't get paid sick leave? Who doesn't have a home or running water? How can we structure our society to make us less vulnerable to climate change and pandemics?

For further questions, please contact [Grace Peng](mailto:Grace Peng (310-613-7432)) (310-613-7432).

- **Education—**The Education Committee is examining two areas of interest for the year - early childhood education and the impact of declining enrollment on low-income districts. If you are interested in participating with us on either of these topics, please contact Jeanne Hamilton for more information.
- **Health and Wellness —** The Health and Wellness Committee will be meeting via Zoom (Meeting ID 744-2726-0148) on Tuesday, May 12th at 1pm. Our focus is on helping seniors in our service area to age well. The committee has been working with Inglewood and community leaders to assist in preparing a proposal for AARP's 2020 Community Challenge. Please contact Harriet Chase for interest: hzchase@roadrunner.com/310-545-1026.

Stay Connected!

Like to add something to next months calendar? Please contact us by the following:

LWV of the Beach Cities
BeachCitiesLWV@gmail.com
(310) 787-7501

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