

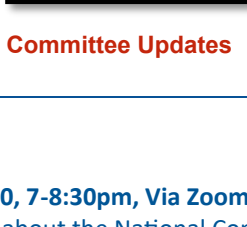
## Top stories in this newsletter



**July Events**



**Letter from LWVBC**



**Committee Updates**

### July Events

- Member Mixer: 7/16/2020, 7-8:30pm, Via Zoom**  
 Join us! We will be talking about the National Convention and focus of the League for the next year. Share your thoughts or just listen in! while still practicing safe social distancing over [Zoom](#).  
 Meeting ID: 980 2395 2949  
 Password: 376462
- Old/New Board Meeting - 7/20/20, 7-9:30pm, Via Zoom.**  
 Meeting ID: 980 2395 2949  
 Password: 376462
- July Book Club - 7/23/2020, 7-8:30pm, Via Zoom**  
 Join the LWV book club as they read [The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet](#). It is a novel about African-American twin sisters who grow up in a small town in Louisiana and chose to live in very different worlds- one white and one black. If you didn't have time to read the book, join us anyway to hear the discussion! Please join us via [Zoom](#).  
 Meeting ID: 980 2395 2949  
 Password: 376462
- LWV LA Country Summer League Day - 7/25/2020, 9:30-1pm, Via Zoom (Zoom info will be sent soon)**  
 - 9:30 to 10:00 Gather with your coffee and favorite pastry Chat and League sharing  
 - 10:00 to 11:00 Non-Partisanship Training Chris Carson  
 - 11:00 to 11:10 Break  
 - 11:10 to 11:50 LA County Program Selection for 2020-2022  
 - 11:50 to Noon LA Break  
 - Noon to 1:00 Advocacy Training with Carol Moon Goldberg (LWVC President)
- Health and Wellness Committee Meeting—7/28/2020, 1pm, via Zoom**  
 See information report information below.
- Reminder: Annual Dues are Due**  
 The dues notices will be coming out mid July. Dues will be the following:
  - \$60.00 for a regular renewing membership
  - \$30 for a first year membership
  - \$30 for a second member in the same household
  - FREE for students enrolled in High School or college
 You will receive a dues notice in the mail which is also a return envelope, which can pay by check or on our website at [LWVBEACHCITIES.ORG/RENEW](#). Any questions about dues payments can be directed to our Treasurer, [Susan Grebe](#) at [SCGREBE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCGREBE@GMAIL.COM) or 310-546-7487.
- 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 [Joan LeSage](#) at [sage.joan@gmail.com](mailto:sage.joan@gmail.com) 310-854-2254.
- Questions? [Contact us anytime!](#)

### Letter from the LWV Beach Cities President

As we are starting a new league year - we are continuing to figure out how to go forward in a COVID environment, but we are connecting and moving forward. There is a huge election coming up in November. People need to be registered to vote. People need to be educated on the issues. We will be holding Zoom "pros and cons" meetings on the ballot measures!

At our Annual Meeting we elected officers, adopted a budget, and had an exciting presentation "From the Frontlines" by Michele Devlin. She is a public health professional who is currently working with COVID in the meat packing plants and on the Navajo reservation. She has had an amazing career traveling all over the world dealing with public health issues. She was well informed and her insights were truly thought provoking. Thank you Michele! The great news is she has become a member of our League so you can talk to her some more. Welcome Michele!

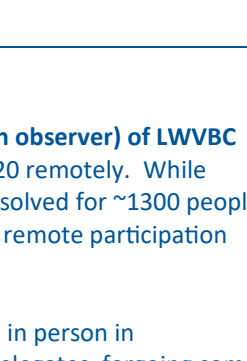
The National League held its biennial convention from June 25-27. Grace Peng, Arnette Travis and Teri Neustaedter were our delegates. The League had 1,134 voting delegates from all over the country on Zoom and it was an inspiring time. Look for the article below! We will talk about it more at our Happy Hour on Thursday July 16! Join us!

Our book club joined with the Pages Book Club to discuss "One Mighty and Irresistible Tide" by Jia Lynn Yang, a book about immigration in the U.S. between 1924 and 1965. The author joined our zoom call and was personable and so knowledgeable. Did you know that it wasn't until 1947 that Native Americans could vote without having to give up their tribal allegiances? Or that it wasn't until 1952 that people of Asian ancestry were able to become citizens and vote? Our next book is "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett- this one is fiction, but deals with racial issues faced when growing up in our country. It should be a great discussion. Join us!

Final thought- we are going through a time when it is even more important to take care of ourselves-- and our communities through social distancing and using masks. Not necessarily fun, but we are in this together.

Stay safe! Stay well! Stay connected with us on Zoom!

Joan LeSage  
President- LWVBC



### Covid-19 Speaker

Our June meeting guest speaker, Dr. Michele Devlin, PhD., and Professor of Global Public Health at Northern Iowa University, gave an enlightening talk about Covid-19 in meatpacking plants. Dr. Devlin has been actively involved in this industry, and shared pictures as well as her experiences. Check out her presentation [here](#). (link expires 8/31/2020; you can find it on our LWVBC website.)

### National Convention Reflections

**Four members (three as voting delegates, one as an observer) of LWVBC** attended the LWV 54th Convention on June 22-27, 2020 remotely. While there were some technical issues that needed to be resolved for ~1300 people to vote via Zoom, the LWVUS team were able to make remote participation work.

Before Covid-19, the meeting would have been held in person in Washington, DC and our league would have sent 1-2 delegates, forgoing some of our three votes. As a volunteer organization, LWV has long depended on people who can afford to donate both their time and money to Making Democracy Work. Many LWV local chapters would not have been able to send any delegates.

The voices that we most need to lift up are often not in the room, unable to attend faraway meetings due to lack of local fundraising capacity. This virtual meeting made broader participation possible, setting attendance records for most delegates and broadest representation of local chapters. When we are able to meet again in person, I hope we can continue to develop hybrid approaches so that everyone who wants to participate may do so.

Virtual meetings cannot replace the in-person networking that takes place around caucusing before the main meeting. Each caucus was independently organized, and attendees needed to register separately for each one. Some were held on the Zoom platform, others on GoToMeeting. Some organizers were on meeting plans that capped attendees at 100, others paid extra to upgrade to 500.

This caused some confusion, as some were turned away from registration for caucuses that had hit the 100 limit but had not yet upgraded plans. When registration was opened up again, some did not learn of it until the caucus had already occurred. I attended caucuses on Federal Public Lands, Voting Representation/Electoral Systems, the Climate Emergency and Abolishing the Electoral College along with 300-400+ attendees in each caucus.

A friend from the other LWVBC, LWV of Boulder County, invited me to a pre-caucus of voting methods policy works, which reminded me to register early for all caucuses of interest to me. I spent all week virtually attending caucuses and reading the convention workbook, recommended background materials and discussions online. When it was time to vote on Friday and Saturday, I was prepped with the facts and background history to guide my vote.

At the main meeting, we passed motions committing ourselves to education and advocacy for a long list of policy objectives, including racial justice. We also elected Dr. Deborah Turner, a physician, a lawyer and a black woman, as our new president. We cannot Make Democracy Work for some but not all. This is the thread that must run through all of our work. I feel some optimism that I am working alongside so many other women throughout the US (and our Hong Kong chapter!)

- By Grace Peng

**Last year I attended my first State Convention; this year was my first National Convention** via zoom. In person was much more productive, and exhausting, because you were in constant contact with fellow attendees discussing one thing or another. There was no opportunity to do that this year, and it was missed. BUT – I am glad we had our first virtual convention as I believe this will enable more people to "attend" and become more actively involved. We will, some day, get back to in-person meetings...when that can't happen, I am thrilled to know that there are options. It will be wonderful when our conventions can be virtual as well as in person, and it will open up the doors for more camaraderie and across the "aisle" work. Can't wait!

Until then, here are my 3 big take-aways from this year:

1. The Caucuses are where the true action is! Attend as many as you can – you will soon be able to listen to some of them from this convention via the LWVUS website. They're a great place to find out more about causes you're passionate about.
2. Our new president, Deborah Turner, MD, JD, hails from the Midwest and will be outstanding. She will help guide the LWV into the next century, and I can't wait to see what she tackles over the next two years.
3. VOTE411 is going to become even bigger than it is – the League plans to grow and publicize this reference site on all levels, further reinforcing that it's a source that can be trusted when you're ready to vote. Educated voters make better decisions – and with our current environment, that's going to be extremely important.

- By Teri Neustaedter

### Committee Updates

#### Health and Wellness —

The next Health and Wellness Committee Meeting via Zoom will be on Tuesday, July 28 at 1pm (Zoom ID will be sent at a later date). 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. Then Covid-19 hit and all plans were put on hold.

We then chose two volunteer activities, one to give donations to St Margaret's Center (check the LWVBC June Newsletter, [lwbbeachcities.org](#)), the other to give a Thank You dinner to first responders at an Inglewood fire station.

At the Tuesday, June 23, 2020 Zoom committee meeting we invited three speakers from the community who were involved in responding to the needs of the seniors impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. They included: Maxine Toler, President, Senior Advisory Council Inglewood; Carol Kitabayashi, Executive Director, Westside Pacific Village; and Rosanna Azanza, Adult Supervisor, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Clinic, Inglewood.

We heard how difficult the isolation has been for seniors, agencies and organizations. For more information email Harriet for the meeting Minutes.

We always welcome new members!

Please contact [Harriet Chase](#) for interest: [hzchase@roadrunner.com](mailto:hzchase@roadrunner.com)/310-545-1026.

**Homelessness—** Over the last five years, LA County's homeless services system has vastly increased its performance and effectiveness, housing double the number of people each year than before Measure H. In response to Covid-19, the county is making even more improvements and moving faster, sheltering 6,010 people in three months, and are bringing the 15,000 most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness inside.

Despite the success of ending homelessness for tens of thousands each year (22,000 in 2019), the number of people falling into homelessness each year has also grown (27,000 in 2019). With the economic fallout of the pandemic, and systemic racism which has led to a 4x overrepresentation of Black people among those experiencing homelessness, it is clear that we need big systemic changes in our housing supply, economy, health care, justice systems and more to advance racial justice and stem the inflow to homelessness.

The 2020 count shows that the number of people experiencing homelessness at any point in time is unacceptably high. LA County is up 13% to 66,436, and the city of LA is up 14% at 41,290 people. The count was completed in January, long before the pandemic hit. 599,000 workers in LA County lost their jobs as of early May, and while there are efforts to prevent residents from being evicted, the ACLU (among other groups) is fearful that 2, maybe 3, times as many people will become homeless due to this confluence of circumstances.

The South Bay (Service Provider Area 8; 15 cities plus unincorporated areas) has fared better than most, with only a 4% increase in homelessness (not including Long Beach, which is addressed separately). Below are the numbers for the Beach Cities in our League; to review the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness' presentation, click [here](#); to review LA Homeless Services Authority's SPA8 data, click [here](#).

CITY	2020 HOMELESS COUNT	2020 INCREASE/ DECREASE
El Segundo	19	+27
Hawthorne	108	-22
Hermosa Beach	25	-9
Inglewood	461	-9
Manhattan Beach	21	-49
Redondo Beach	174	+13

Are you interested in learning more about the homeless? Contact Teri Neustaedter if you're interested in joining our committee: [tmuific@gmail.com](mailto:tmuific@gmail.com); 913 568 5466.

**Natural Resources —** by Grace Peng

These are dark times, but we are not alone. This is your invitation to join the LWVBC Natural Resources committee, where we will fight for environmental justice for everyone. Can you (virtually) attend government meetings? Read government plans and reports? Write short summaries of them? Do you have specialized expertise that can help us analyze issues? Do you have public communication skills? Would you like to attend a short monthly Zoom meeting with others tracking environmental issues in our area and help decide if we should take action? Can you help us take action by writing letters or giving public comments at on-line public meetings? Email [gspeng.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:gspeng.lwv@gmail.com) to join us

For further questions, please contact [Grace Peng](#) (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.

### Stay Connected!

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

LWV of the Beach Cities  
[BeachCitiesLWV@gmail.com](mailto:BeachCitiesLWV@gmail.com)  
 (310) 379-6663

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