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*Serving the people of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach,
Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach*

THE VOTER

May, 2021



FROM THE PRESIDENT
Joan LeSage

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 5/2021

SAVE THE DATE! May 8 is our 53rd Annual Meeting!

We continue our goal to make a difference in our community. We will decide on a program for this year as well as approving a budget and electing officers and directors. You should have received an information kit a few weeks ago and it will be sent out again. Nominations can be made from the floor!

We are excited that **Kevin Cody, owner and publisher of the Easy Reader** will be our keynote. The media is critical in how we see the world. Hear his perspective on the challenges of local media.

Join us on ZOOM.

(Apologies for sending an incorrect photo in the newsletter previously. This is the real Kevin Cody.)

KEVIN CODY
PUBLISHER

**Easy
Reader**
easyreadernews.com



Focus on the Science: Grace Peng energized many at our first in-person meeting since March, 2020. She led members through a small section of Redondo Beach and they viewed water and sewage infrastructure and discussed the challenges of managing our California water supply.

It turns out that science is critical in coming up with solutions for our water needs (and many other issues). What we hear may sound good, but often it is not based on science. NIMBYs, environmental groups, industry, and politicians all have different agendas- the solutions will need to address all the issues, but the science should be the starting point for any negotiations. Grace is hosting zoom chats to discuss water issues- the first will be May 15. If you want to join send an email to gspeng.lwv@gmail.com.

Focus on Education: Jeanne Hamilton was able to schedule and skillfully moderate zoom interviews with six superintendents from our local school districts to hear their versions of how things have worked in this crazy pandemic environment. Dale Petrulic was phenomenal in putting together a spreadsheet and summary. Read the Article below for the details very informative and encouraging.

...and Focus on the Newsletter: While working tirelessly on the state Homeless Position, Teri Neustaedter revived our Newsletter and made it informative, interesting and artistic and is now turning it over to Chris Davis! We can't thank both of them enough! We are excited that Chris Davis is bringing so much expertise and enthusiasm!! Please read on and mark all the upcoming dates and *join us on ZOOM!*

CALENDAR [CLICK TO LINK TO FULL CALENDAR](#)

Saturday, May 8 10am – 12pm
Annual Meeting / Key Speaker, Kevin Cody - ZOOM

Monday, May 10 7pm – 9pm
LWVBC Board Meeting

Saturday, May 15 10am – 11am
Water & Infrastructure Group Meeting (WIG) ZOOM

Thursday, May 20 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Third Thursday Mixer

Monday, May 24 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Housing & Homelessness Presentation by Teri

Tuesday, May 25 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Health & Wellness Virtual committee meeting
All League members are welcome!
Contact Harriet for more information: hychase@roadrunner.com or (310) 545-1026

Wednesday, May 26 7:00pm – 8:30pm
LWVBC Book Club

Monday, June 14 7pm – 9pm
LWVBC Board Meeting

Thursday, June 17 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Third Thursday Mixer

Fact or Fiction?

LA County houses about 5,000 people experiencing homelessness.*

The Truth about Our Homeless Situation

Using LWVC's New Homelessness Action Policy and Tool Kit



Discover where we stand in our fight against homelessness. Get a sneak peek of LWVCalifornia's new Homelessness Action Policy and Tool Kit, which highlights ways we can make a difference.

Homelessness Action Policy Presentation

Monday, May 24 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Presented by Teri Neustaedter,
a member of the LWVC Homelessness TaskForce

* 82,955 individuals fell into homeless in LA County 2019. 22,279 were placed in permanent housing via outreach services; 53,000 "self resolved" their situation. While an average of 207 people escaped homelessness each day, another 227 BECAME homeless. source: LAHSA, lamag.com June 2020



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High School

to honor Uyematsu family, Japanese internment survivors

A monument to Japanese nursery pioneer and internment survivor Francis Uyematsu will be built at Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High School. Uyematsu's Star Nursery stood at what is now the site of Mira Costa, though Francis sold the land following his family's internment at Manzanar during World War II. The monument comes after years of activism by former Mira Costa teacher Chuck Currier. [Read the full story.](#)

With its vote on March 31, the Manhattan Beach Unified School District's Board of Education honored Uyematsu, promising to fund the construction of a \$4,000 monument at Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High School Campus. "It's really an honor, and I look at it as not just an honor to the Uyematsu family and grandpa, but also to a whole generation of Issei that were really important in developing agriculture in Southern California," said Amy Uyematsu, Francis's granddaughter. "I think to have a monument like that at the high school is just a great reminder to upcoming generations of the role that Japanese Americans have played in the history of California."



Uyematsu, an early 20th century Japanese immigrant, had a passion for agriculture, which turned into a booming nursery business and a variety of Camelia flowers that populate what is now Descanso Gardens. His Star Nurserys had locations across Los Angeles, including the land that would one day become Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High School.

But his success took a stark turn when, following his family's internment during World War II, he was forced to sell his land to keep his finances afloat.

The monument is due, in no small part, to the activism of retired Mira Costa teacher Chuck Currier, who has spent years working to tell Uyematsu's tale.

According to Currier, Francis Uyematsu emigrated to the United States from Japan in 1903, selling flowers in Downtown Los Angeles, at the intersection of Figueroa Street and 12th Street. Before long, he purchased his first plot of land for his business, Star Nursery, in what's now called Montebello; later purchases were made under his son's name to buy land in Sierra Madre and Manhattan Beach, to get around California's now-repealed Alien Land Law of 1913.

Uyematsu's business, and his family, grew steadily over the decades — until World War II, when he and his family were interred at Manzanar War Relocation Center, a concentration camp that held captive thousands of Japanese immigrants and their American-born children. His eldest daughter, Alice, died of tuberculosis, which she suffered at Manzanar.

To stem his business's financial bleeding, Uyematsu was increasingly forced to downsize his holdings. By 1947, two years after the war, Uyematsu sold 40 acres of land in Manhattan Beach, east of Sepulveda Boulevard, for \$60,000.

The project came when Currier had a "chance encounter" with Mira Costa Principal Ben Dale, leading the two to dive deep into the school's past.

"We should be honest about our history. When warranted, we should honor our history. And our history should also ignite important, challenging and courageous conversations," Dale said to the school board.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE



Dr. Grace Peng, PhD. (pink hat and shoelaces), engaged attendees with great information during her **Water Walkabout with a Scientist in March**. She showed us where our water comes from, where it goes and how neighborhood spots that we barely see when we walk or drive by are critical to keeping our drinking water safe. Interest is so high regarding these infrastructure topics that Grace has formed the Water and Infrastructure Group (WIG) that she will lead each month. The first meeting is May 15th at 10 am. See the article below for details and the ongoing calendar of meetings and zoom link.

The first **Water and Infrastructure Group (WIG)** meeting will be on **Saturday May 15 at 10:00 via Zoom**

[Agenda for the first meeting](#)

The first month, we will read:

[A Long View of Southern California Water Supply: Perfect Droughts Revisited](#)
by C.A. Woodhouse, D.M. Meko, and E.R. Bigio

Professor Connie Woodhouse has kindly shared her journal article with us. The article is a sobering read, especially in the context of Climate Change.

For Zoom information, contact Grace Peng, gspeng.lwv@gmail.com

EDUCATION

A Challenging Time for Our School Districts

Jeanne Hamilton skillfully moderated zoom interviews with six superintendents from our local school districts — their stories about how they managed to educate our children during this crazy pandemic environment are intriguing and insightful. Many thanks to Dale Petrusis who put together a phenomenal spreadsheet and

summary.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS WITH AREA SUPERINTENDENTS

Click image for full presentation



EDUCATION COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS WITH AREA SUPERINTENDENTS					
SHADED AREAS REPRESENT CONSISTENT ANSWERS FROM ALL INTERVIEWED SUPERINTENDENTS					
Lawndale	Redondo	Hawthorne	Hermosa	El Segundo	Manhattan Beach
<p>Lawndale is a resilient community. Families are engaged and care deeply about their children and each other.</p> <p>When filling gaps, we are focusing on evidence plus equity.</p> <p>We will have to support our families, as the East side corridor had four times higher COVID rate.</p> <p>Many of our families have experienced illness, due to greater risk in the community.</p> <p>Convincing families that school is safe will be one of our challenges.</p>	<p>Impact from the pandemic will continue beyond this year.</p> <p>Measuring regression and how to compensate remains a challenge. Measuring student progress will be ongoing.</p> <p>RBUSD is providing a daily intervention period for support when students do not appear to be understanding the material.</p> <p>Needs/measurement tools are being recalibrated.</p> <p>We are proud to be one of twelve, out of 80, Los Angeles County districts that is open.</p>	<p>We are VERY PROUD of the program and support that we have provided for students.</p> <p>The district is researching and exploring ways to mitigate learning loss.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic, there was 1 additional teacher assigned for support per site. Going forward, there will now be 2 support teachers per site.</p> <p>Tutors will provide 1:1 support.</p>	<p>The Hermosa Beach Educators' Association is on board, signing an agreement in August to return to the classroom as soon as possible. They were one of the first in the County to ask to return to in-person learning.</p> <p>The union represents ALL district employees and has been a GREAT partner.</p> <p>As a very small school district, we had extremely limited resources to develop all of the state and local requirements which were not scaled for small districts.</p>	<p>We provide MONDAY time for teachers to collaborate, and coordinate grade level lessons and expectations. "Mondays are like GOLD" Benchmark assessments indicate many of our children have been making strong learning gains.</p> <p>We will continue successful intervention strategies, as needed.</p> <p>Students with learning gaps, will receive support and summer intervention, as needed.</p> <p>We were one of 5 districts that reopened in Dec. for pre-K-2.</p>	<p>We are advocating for the kids. We want them in school which is essential for both social and educational learning. There has been no competition. only collaboration with the other South Bay school districts and support for the benefit and well-being of students.</p> <p>MBUSD opened pre-schools and childcare in Sept.; high need special education classes in Oct.; TK-2nd grades in Dec.; grades 3-5 on March 1; 6th grade on March 8; 1,400 athletes are practicing. We are awaiting guidance from the county re: HS opening.</p>

ADVOCACY

LWV INTERVIEW WITH BEN ALLEN



On March 5, 2021, Leagues in the South Bay met virtually with state Senator Ben Allen for the annual LWV legislative interview. We addressed three key topics set by LWVCA.

Land Use and Climate Change: ways to progress in preserving and converting natural and agricultural land

to achieve a net drawdown of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Senator Allen is the Chair of the Environmental Quality Committee. He feels that the public vision of climate change seldom includes natural and working lands. But he has come to see the land element as a key part of a program to bring about climate change. Land restoration, improved agricultural practices, soil conservation, cleaner landfill use will help increase CO2 drawdown and retention. Soil is a carbon sink and has to be part of the solution. Plant materials not properly re-added to the soil increases carbon. We need to support the farmers on land management.

Drought and fire cause the release of carbon particles. Forest fires over the past couple of years have accounted for a significant amount of California's carbon emissions. Fighting fires been very expensive. More should be spent on prevention which would reduce emissions and save money in the long run.

SB 45, the Climate Resiliency Bond, has been re-introduced this session. It would authorize \$5 billion in bond funds to mitigate fire and drought. Funding for soil improvement is part of the measure.

The Senator would like to partner with the LWV on broad education efforts on this issue.

Housing and Homelessness, Zoning and Affordability: possible reforms, such as rezoning and/or incentives, to encourage the building of more affordable housing to meet the need for 3.5 million units by 2025.

Cities are starting to review single family zoning, e.g., Sacramento and Berkeley. In the South Bay and coastal areas there is pushback on the issue.

The state legislature passed SB 35 to speed up housing construction in cities that are not producing their share of housing.

Currently bills are being introduced that address this issue:

- SB 809 provides a trust fund concept to allow cities voluntary options to provide money for housing construction in adjacent areas.
- SB 563 offers incentives to develop housing near quality transit centers.
- Transit and housing are linked and improving transit is part of improving housing. Approximately \$600-\$700 million from the SB1 gas tax will go to transit improvements.
- There will be a very big discussion/debate on SB9 and SB10, and housing in general.
- SB696 helps cities repurpose unused retail buildings as housing.
- SB 5 is a housing bond for construction of facilities for the homeless and low income populations.
- A bill to streamline the CEQA review and move projects along faster is coming up.
- There is a ballot measure in process that would block the state from impacting local zoning decisions.

The Senator wants to see transit dollars from the gas tax used to expand housing options.

He thinks that Project Room Key/Home Key is one positive step, but there is more to do.

Senator Allen stated that this is a complex measure that all groups have to work on. He'd like to see a middle ground approach that would put pressure on cities to build more housing, without dictating zoning specifics and would allow some discretion.

Equitable COVID-19 Recovery: ways to ensure that the underserved communities and low wage workers who have suffered disproportionately in the pandemic receive due consideration and assistance in the recovery.

The Legislature is working on many projects to address this issue.

- the Schools Reopening Plan provides \$6.5 billion in economic relief,
- a \$7.5 billion stimulus package will assist low-income residents and grants/waivers for small businesses.

- the Golden State Stimulus Program assists low-income residents and immigrants.
- the California Rebuilding Fund assists small and minority-owned businesses.
- renter relief and the eviction moratorium support renters – expires in June 2021; there is an 80% landlord reimbursement return.
- unexpectedly, state revenue has been strong during the pandemic; some of these funds are being used to assist vulnerable groups, including earned-income-tax-credit recipients, undocumented residents, CalWORKs participants, immigrants, cultural units.

The crisis has highlighted the inequities in our system. Equity has been at the heart of the state response – it is a core value.

Personal Legislative Priorities

We asked Senator Allen about his personal legislative priorities – and he had many.

- The plastic problem. Plastic is a fossil fuel product and is doing a great deal of environmental damage. Packaging is a big part of the problem and the cities and rate payers have to pay the bill to dispose of the plastic.

SB 54 would address reduction of plastic packaging by the producers.

SB 343 strengthens requirements for truth in labeling regarding plastic recycling.

- Coastal issues. SB 433 expands the Coastal Commission’s authority to deal with lawbreakers.

We also need to help cities buy up coastal lands that are threatened by rising tide.

- Money in politics and disclosure laws. SB 459 expands disclosure laws for lobbyists regarding who is paying for their services. SB 752 requires disclosure of sponsors for messaging/ads sent to legislators on pending bills.

- Housing. SCA 2 would repeal Article 34 of the state Constitution which requires approval of local voters before public money can be spent to build affordable housing within a jurisdiction. Article 34 is a carry-over from the 1940s/50s.

- Diversity incentives for the film and TV industries tax credit program.
- Consumer protection for toxic chemicals.
- Hospice licensees who do not serve their patients well.
- SCA 3 calls for recall election reform – the 2-election system needs to be revised.
- Develop a “Creative Corps” of people and groups that would help spread accurate information on the pandemic.

Additional Questions

How can we be sure that in there will not be fraudulent claims for new federal stimulus money as there were in California in the last round of stimulus money?

AB 110 addresses the issue of list cross-referencing, which was part of the problem last time.

Also, the Assembly is working on EDD reforms. These are steps recommended by the State Auditor based on a review of the past problems.

Will the new federal stimulus package include money for cities? Many have suffered from a drop in tourism.

Yes. There will be money for cities. Also \$50 million to help with tourism.

In light of what is happening with the Police Union obstructing George Gascon's criminal justice reforms, what is your position about receiving campaign contributions from the Police Unions and Associations?

Senator Allen said that he has taken money from donors, but that he does not feel obligated to vote the way the donors may want; he votes against them if that is the right way to vote. There is too much money in the political system today. Donors have agendas.

Senator Allen said Gascon has resigned from the California District Attorneys Association and joined a new group of progressive prosecutors, Prosecutors Alliance, that will bring a new voice to the table.

Regarding sentence enhancements, in recent years two repeals of automatic sentencing enhancements were enacted. A new bill, SB 483 (Allen), would apply these repeals retroactively to all persons in jail or prison, providing parity in sentencing.

LWV members present were Dale Petrulis, Karen Ford Cull, Susan Grebe, Jeanne Hamilton, Joan LeSage, Grace Peng of LWV Beach Cities ; Linda Herman, Allison Phillips, Janet MacLeod, Nancy Mahr, Ann Nye of LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula; Barbara Inatsugu, Darlene Evans, Angela Scott, Ann Williams, Natalya Zernitskaya of LWV Santa Monica; and Susan Rice, Carryl Carter, Jane Goichman, Camille Goulet, Carlos Medina, Ann Rushton, Isabella Sledge, Virginia Wexman of LWV Los Angeles.

LWV INTERVIEW WITH AL MURATSUCHI



On February 17, 2021, Leagues in the South Bay met virtually with Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi for the annual LWV legislative interview.

Land Use and Climate Change: ways to progress in converting natural and agricultural land to achieve a net drawdown of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Assemblymember Muratsuchi is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Climate Change Policies. He sees climate change as the biggest existential issue facing the nation and the earth. He is proud that California leads the country in fighting climate change. He wants to work with the LWV in addressing these issues.

The Legislature is exploring agricultural land use to (1) cut down on greenhouse gas emissions and (2) take advantage of carbon sinks and methane emission drawdown.

Still, he reminded us, transportation is the biggest source of emissions. It's important that the focus on CO2 drawdown does not give the transportation industry an excuse to not continue progress in reducing emission. He sees Governor Newsome's executive order to eliminate all fossil fuel vehicles by 2035 as a bold step forward. We need to make clean

cars and trucks more affordable and to develop the infrastructure needed to support them.

Housing and Homelessness, Zoning and Affordability: possible reforms, such as rezoning and/or incentives, to encourage the building of more affordable housing to meet the need for 3.5 million units by 2025.

This is a hot issue in the Legislature and is controversial in many communities. Assemblymember Muratsuchi recognizes the need to build more housing in California, and to make housing more affordable. The need to build is clear. However, he has concerns with the Legislature passing laws that encroach on local control. City councils and planning commission work diligently on housing plans for their communities. This is an especially difficult issue in the South Bay area. He would like to see a balance of building and protecting local control.

He is interested in a proposed “Housing Trust Fund” that enables cities to buy into the effort to produce affordable housing. It could be one approach to meeting housing needs.

The legislative focus needs to be on promoting multiple types of housing – single family and various multi-family units.

He noted that there is a proposal for new tax increases to raise funds for housing. However, there is some concern that not all the Measure H and HHH funds are being utilized.

He feels that we should prioritize shelters to provide a roof and services for individuals. That should be the first step. Building costly housing doesn't house enough of those in need.

Equitable COVID-19 Recovery: ways to ensure that the underserved communities and low wage workers who have suffered disproportionately in the pandemic receive due consideration and assistance in the recovery.

This is a key focus for Assemblymember Muratsuchi and for the state Legislature. Societal inequities that existed before the pandemic have been magnified during the pandemic.

The vaccination effort is a current priority. The Legislature is looking to targeting communities of color for vaccine distribution and for other programs to address the economic disparity.

He had participated in a meeting earlier in the day to discuss a new round of state economic stimulus and recovery funds. It would be a \$9.6 billion stimulus package and would assist the hardest hit individuals and small businesses, including undocumented residents and CalWORKs and SSI families.

Personal Legislative Priorities

We asked Assemblymember Muratsuchi about his personal legislative priorities.

He specifically noted a bill he is authoring, AB 34, Broadband for All. This is a \$10 billion bond measure aimed at closing the digital divide by expanding online access for all communities. The pandemic has exposed access as an equity issue. It is especially important now that virtual formats are being used in business, education, and personal communications. We are failing some students by not providing broad band access.

He cited other topics of interest to him:

- rent relief for small businesses – some has been done for residential rent relief, but little for business. There is a pending bill to extend the residential eviction moratorium.
- nursing homes
- “just transition” of fossil fuel workers to clean fuel jobs
- “right to shelter,” ensuring a bed is available for all who want one
- use of LA County service planning areas to enable a regional approach to decisions and programs

We also asked about the census data. He said that the data is late in being reported. The target date for full data is September, with maps being drawn in September/October.

In response to a question, Assemblymember Muratsuchi said that the Safe School Reopening bill is before the legislature. It includes up to \$ 4 billion to address learning loss and includes mental health issues.

Members present were Dale Petruilis and Joan LeSage, LWV Beach Cities ; Pamela Thornton, LWV Torrance Area; Allison Phillips, Janet MacLeod and Nancy Mahr, LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula; Barbara Inatsugu, LWV Santa Monica; and Susan Rice, LWV Los Angeles. We addressed three key topics set by LWVCA.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Asking for your help!

Do you know any groups, churches or organizations in Hawthorne (or Inglewood) who might be able to be a source for volunteers for Westside Pacific Villages (WPV)?



The Health & Wellness Committee is partnering with Carol Kitabayashi, Exec. Director, of WPV CARES, a senior emergency program run by Westside Pacific Villages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. LWVBC is hoping to act as the “connector” to these cities. We will be assisting Carol in extending the program initially into Hawthorne, then Inglewood. The program provides for a variety of free services so seniors can remain in their homes and not feel socially isolated.

FREE

COVID-19 SUPPORT
for seniors!

WPV CARES

 AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM



Are you a senior in Westside LA, or adjacent cities, who needs help with the following?



COURIER SERVICES
& CONTACTLESS DELIVERY



SOCIAL
SUPPORT CALLS



WEEKLY
CARE PACKAGES



ONLINE & PHONE
ACTIVITIES



LIMITED
TRANSPORTATION



OTHER
SUPPORT

IF YOU NEED HELP, WANT TO VOLUNTEER, OR MAKE A DONATION:

WEBSITE: thewpv.org | **PHONE:** 310-695-7030

EMAIL: WPVCARES@thewpv.org

Established in 2010, Westside Pacific Villages is a volunteer-driven, non-profit helping residents ages 55+ with routine tasks and social engagement to enhance their independence.

[Learn more at thewpv.org](http://thewpv.org)



FREE

Virtual Activities with The Village

All Ages Welcome!

Come hang out with us!

In response to COVID-19, Westside Pacific Villages has organized many virtual activities for people of all ages in our community to join via Zoom. Contact friends@thewpv.org for more info on the activities that are currently in rotation. See you online!



Reconnect Cooking

Unwind and make a delicious meal together from start to finish! Email us for the ingredients list!



Book Club

Let's talk about books (the wine glass is optional)! Join the club and meet up on Zoom regularly for group discussions.



Chair Yoga & Meditation

Chair yoga and meditation from the comfort of your own home.



Virtual Games

Arts & Healing presents Virtual Games! Join us for fun, interactive online games.



Senior Fitness

A functional, low impact 45 minute exercise class designed to make movement fun. Warm up, balance work, cardio, upper body and lower body strength, and stretching.



Tea & Chat

Let's chat over a cup of tea or beverage of your choice! (Rotating host)



Art & Healing In Our Village

A variety of therapeutic art, movement, and music activities to promote wellness and creative expression.



Early Morning Meditation

Let's start the week right with early morning meditation. Join us on Mondays at 5am via Zoom.

RSVP for the Zoom link:

E-mail friends@thewpv.org or call 310-695-7030

Carol is happy to do presentations and answer questions once connected. They are looking for about 12 volunteers to start; these volunteers can set their own day/time/frequency/"job." WPV's process is to get these volunteers in place and vetted, then pursue those who need help. Of course they are also seeking funding/grants/etc., but the focus is really on getting volunteers in, or around, Hawthorne, to get this expansion going. (Hawthorne has at least 50% Spanish speaking residents so bi-lingual skills would be wonderful!) Please contact Harriet to share your information: hychase@roadrunner.com or (310) 545-1026.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Impact on Issues

2020–2022:
A Guide to Public Policy Positions of the
League of Women Voters

The definitive publication on LWVUS positions and the history of their use – is now available in paperback and kindle for \$5 from Amazon.

Having the print version allows you to quickly research League positions – which apply at all levels – and the history of how they've been used.



WE NEED YOU TO BECOME PART OF AN OBSERVER CORPS!!

Share the position with one or more interested people.

WHAT: Attend or watch a city council meeting and share important information. We would like all of our cities represented/observed for every city council meeting.

- Go to the meeting. Get a copy of the agenda (if possible, check whether it is available in advance online) and any other reports that are available. You don't have to read them all! You may not speak for the League at the meeting. Outside of the meeting you can ask questions of staff and officials
- If you can't be at the meeting in person, then watch it online. While the officials may not see you, you can still monitor the meeting

WHO: Anyone who lives in the South Bay and is a member of the League of Women's Voters of the South Bay. Share the work with someone else. We already have one observer for Redondo Beach and one for Hermosa Beach.

WHY: Our City Council meetings are an important part of how our cities support, protect and enrich our lives.

- The first reason for observing public meetings is to watch their general operations. What issues are being discussed and how is the meeting being conducted? Does the agency comply with the open meeting laws?
- The second reason for observing public meetings is to watch for issues on which the League should be taking action - speaking out. If an item that is being discussed is related to one of LWVO's positions then include that in your report. We'll look into it and see whether it's something that the League should be speaking out on.
- Finally, and maybe most importantly, observing makes a statement that the community is watching the process of government. The League observer is the representative of the public at these.

If you are interested, please contact [Dale Petruilis at dale.petruilis@gmail.com](mailto:dale.petruilis@gmail.com) or 310-694-6313.

Indulge Your Interests! Get involved!

Our members join the League for many reasons and contribute their talents in a variety of ways. Listed below are the active committees within our Beach Cities Chapter, along with the contact person for each committee. Consider how you want to participate in 2021. One thing is for certain – our cities, states, and country need you now, more than ever!

CONTACT OUR CHAIRS

ADVOCACY

Dale Petrulis, dale.petrulis@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Jeanne Hamilton, jeannehamiltonclaremont@gmail.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Harriet Chase, hzchase@roadrunner.com

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

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Arnette Travis, arnettetravis@gmail.com

NATURAL RESOURCES

Grace Peng, gspeng.lwv@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICE

Barbara Arlow, gerbar92@msn.com

The more active you are in League, the more rewarding you will find it! You may also want to investigate our LA County Inter-League Organization (ILO) ([email Grace Peng](mailto:Grace Peng)). And right now there are movements around Health Care and Criminal Justice on a state level, if these are areas you're passionate about, don't hold back! Participating on a task force beyond our local chapter can be an incredibly rewarding experience and can really help our chapter become more active regarding those topics. ([email Teri Neustaedter](mailto:Teri Neustaedter) for more information).



To everyone who contributed to our non-event fundraiser, we send our heartfelt thanks!

To date we have received \$3390. Your generosity provides the operating cash needed to run our programs. Rather than raise dues, we use these donations to keep our program afloat. As most of you have heard many times – ALL OUR DUES GO TO PAY OUR PER MEMBER PAYMENTS TO THE NATIONAL, STATE & COUNTY

LEAGUES.

Thank you to the following:

Jennifer Aglio
Mary Spring and Peter Albrect
Jane Alfonso
Barbara Arlow,
Peggy Bartlett
Don and Sari Brann
Jan Brittain
Paulette Caudill
Harriet Chase
Cynthia Cropper
Patricia Driezler
June Eicker
Debra Estroff
Roslyn Fanelo
Susan Grebe
Jeanne Hamilton
Judy Hammond

Ruth Hart
Kay Hudspeth
R.L. Johnson
Maureen Kelly
Joan LeSage
Lillian Lunt
Fatima Malik
Penny Markey
Jane Munson
Michelle Murphy
Teri Neustaedter
Dency Nelson
Sunhee Park
Vanessa Poster
Wendy Phillips
Yvette Reiner
James Stewart
Ellen Tarlow
Margaret Thelen
Lance Widman



THE VOTER

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of the Beach Cities

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