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

# THE VOTER

Spring 2023

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**Tri-League Buffet Brunch**  
Reserve Your Place Now!



LWV of the Palos  
Verdes Peninsula/  
San Pedro, LWV of  
the Beach Cities and  
LWV of the Torrance Area

# Tri-League Buffet Brunch

Saturday April 29, 2023

9:30 am to 12:30 pm

We are pleased to invite you to a presentation by **Jacki Bacharach**, Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments



Join us as we learn more about this organization which brings 16 cities together to provide a leadership forum for South Bay local governments to act collaboratively.

Together they advocate for regional issues with a focus on improving transportation and the environment and strengthening economic development. The guiding principle is more can be accomplished when cities work together rather than working alone.

### **Agenda:**

9:30 am - Registration

10:00 am - Buffet Brunch

11:00 am - Speaker Jacki Bacharach

11:30 am - Questions, Answers & Updates

### **Location:**

Depot Restaurant/Kimono Room  
1250 Cabrillo Avenue, Torrance

### **Tickets:**

- \$35/per person in advance — check or PayPal
- \$40/person at the door – cash or check only

Online payment and registration here: [lwvpalosverdes.org](http://lwvpalosverdes.org)

*Select Paypal twice to get to credit card option*

Please make checks payable to: LWVPVP and mail to  
Cindy Kondon at 29910 Avenida Anillo, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

**Please RSVP BY April 26th**

Questions? Please contact Katy Watkins, [kathleen6068@att.net](mailto:kathleen6068@att.net) or 310-539-3803

**REGISTER NOW**

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## Care Court: What is It?

By Teri Neustaedter



Last fall, CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment) Court legislation was signed into law, creating a new policy framework to assist people living with untreated mental health (schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders) and substance abuse challenges. It has been hailed by some as an answer for those who have severe mental illness and are often unhoused. By others, it's considered an infringement of these individuals' civil rights.

Seven counties are scheduled to have pilots in place by December 2023; Los Angeles County, not officially included in this pilot group, has said it too will have its initial program ready to go later this year. California estimates CARE Courts will manage 7,000 to 12,000 cases, providing access to housing, treatment and care to those in crisis. Accountability will rest with individuals and local governments that have court orders for these services.

CARE Court is meant to be a way to assist someone before they are arrested and jailed, or fall into a conservatorship. The logistics themselves are straightforward, and will no doubt evolve in each county to meet their specific needs.

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The newly formed CARE Act Working Group provides coordination and on-going engagement with, and supports collaboration among, relevant state and local partners and other stakeholders throughout the phases of county implementation to support the successful implementation of the CARE Act.

While pilot creation is in motion, a coalition of disability and civil rights advocates recently filed a lawsuit asking the California Supreme Court to block the rollout of the CARE Act: Stay Tuned!



For more information about the CARE Court:

[https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Fact-Sheet\\_-CARE-Court-1.pdf](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Fact-Sheet_-CARE-Court-1.pdf)

<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/care-act/> <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/committees/care-act-working-group/>

<https://www.davisvanguard.org/2023/03/constitutionality-of-care-courts-challenged-by-civil-rights-groups/>

New to the League?  
Need a refresher on all that we do?

[SEE OUR ORIENTATION PRESENTATION](#)



## Legislative Interview: Al Muratsuchi

California 66th Assembly District

by Dale Petruilis



Interview Participants: Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Dale Petrusis - moderator, Linda Herman, Mary Dillon, Margie Hoyt, Ann Nye, Susan Grebe, Barbara Inatsugu, Elizabeth Ralston, Laurice Sommers, Susan Rice, Ann Rushton, Camille Goulet, Janet MacLeod, Joan LeSage, Elizabeth Sala, Linda Herman, John Williams, Ryan Rauzon

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## **Question 1: Shrinking California's Voter Participation Gap**

Assemblymember Muratsuchi began with thanking the LWV for their support on many of his past bills and he expressed appreciation for its efforts to educate the voters.

He explained that CA legislation has made voting significantly easier and more accessible by implementing and funding "all mail" elections. Every registered voter gets their ballot in their mailbox. It is hard to think of anything that could be easier. He believes the single biggest obstacle is that too many people feel like their vote does not matter. Getting people to register is another issue. We need to emphasize the connection between voting and election results that govern our lives. His hope is that recent events over the past years demonstrate that if you don't vote, results may result in outcomes that are negative and rights may be taken away (i.e. women's right to reproductive health). He believes we need to protect the election process and restore people's faith in the process.

As to supporting targeted voter outreach, he believes education of voters and dealing with misinformation are critically important. It helps to have community organizations like the LWVs encourage people to vote.

Government funding for this kind of activity is a qualified yes. He doesn't want to waste taxpayers money, but if there is a program that has proven to be effective he would support it. Public funds should be used carefully and he wants to avoid useless spending of tax dollars.

## **Question 2: Equitable Funding for California's School Facilities Program**

This question is timely as he recently introduced a bill to put a statewide school construction bond measure on the ballot. AB247 (Bond Act of 2024) provides for a sale of bonds to construct and modernize facilities for K-12 and Community Colleges.

As to the disparity in funding, he indicated he would like to see clear evidence. In the state School Facilities Program, he noted that there are financial hardship provisions for districts that cannot make the required match – especially rural and lower income schools. Economically-challenged areas are eligible for 100% of funding. There are multiple factors that would provide for the additional funding (i.e. small school districts less than \$5 million dollars).

He also raised the point that, in many cases, the facilities in affluent communities need help. He cited the Palos Verdes school facilities as an example. In comparison he also visited LA Unified School District's school in the defunct Ambassador hotel which has been converted into a spectacular school facility. He said that the biggest recipients of the school bond funds are the large urban school districts that have administrative departments that have maximized their receipt of available bond dollars. He would like to see the studies cited of the inequities.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

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## Immigration and the League

by Joan LeSage

**Immigration is a critical issue to our country.** We have all heard harrowing stories of people trying to enter the country at the borders. There are thousands who are going through the legal process- many who have waited years to work their way through the legal process. Are we hearing the real facts about these issues? The League of Women Voters of California has started an Immigration Interest Group to study the issues. This Group has already produced many zoom meetings with experts who are actually working in the multiple different areas of immigration. It is currently working on a presentation for a Caucus on Immigration that will be held at the State Convention in May.

### **So what are the League's positions on Immigration?**

**Regarding DACA and DREAMers:** The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States: economic, business and employment needs in the United States, and education and training needs of the United States. The League supports a system for individuals living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, studying civics, and meeting other relevant criteria. The League does not support deporting these immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

**Regarding asylum (one can seek asylum based on a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, nationality, religion, political opinion or member of a particular social group):** The League supports legal admission of persons into the United States based on flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries.

**Regarding the Courts:** The Leagues supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment.

**Regarding ICE and Detention Centers:** The League supports Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status, and verification documents such as status cards and work permits with secure identifiers. LWV supports improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies, more effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States, and Increased personnel at borders.

Regarding separating families: The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families. The League supports family reunification of

spouses or minor children.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

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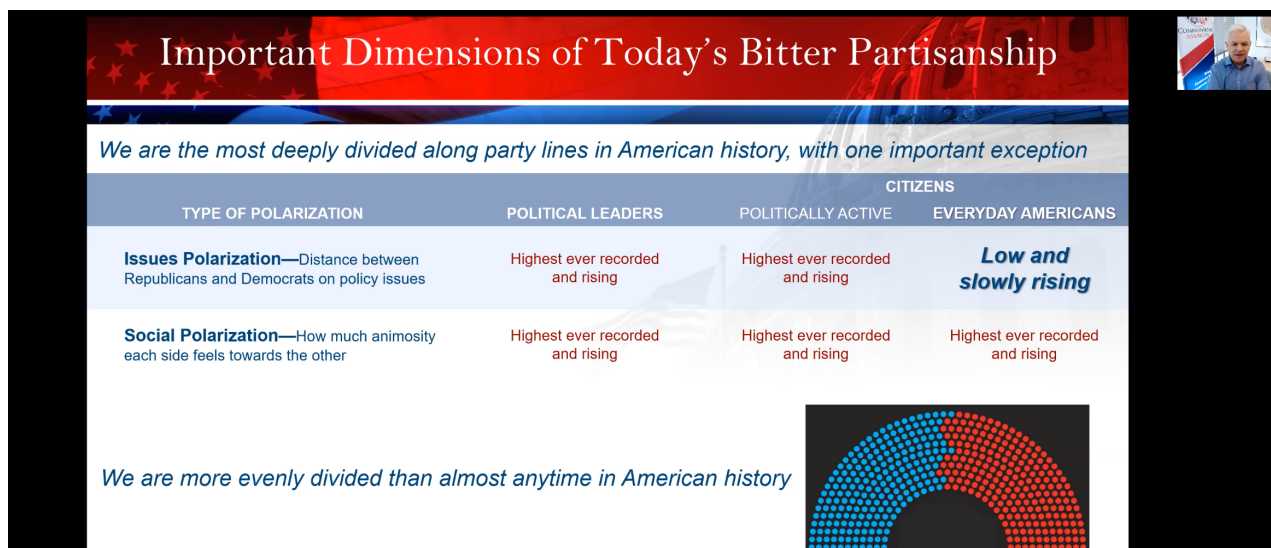
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# From Common Sense to Common Ground

## LWV/NICD session

We had a terrific session with Keith Allred, NICD Executive Director, entitled From Common Sense to Common Ground: Lessons Learned for Strengthening Democracy by Everyday Americans. In case you didn't have a chance to join us, or if you want to review it again, we've included the [recording](#) in this message.

Keith starts just after minute 6 and concludes presentation and discussion just after 60 minutes, the final 30 minutes is an optional discussion among participants about their take-aways and ideas that emerge for them around engaging their communities around issues wise enough to attract support across our political differences.



Elements of the session included:

- Facets of today's bitter partisanship among elected leaders
- Historical view of partisanship and how everyday Americans are not as polarized on issues as the narrative would have us believe.
- How the program, [CommonSense American](#) (CSA) works to successfully engage citizens and Members of Congress around common sense applications to policy issues.
- Shared the [Electoral Count policy brief](#) that members read before they weighed in with Congress in the last session
- Shared the [results page](#) showing where CommonSense American members stood on the issues after reading the policy brief
- And learned a little about a new component of CSA, [online facilitated small group conversations](#)



## April

**4/20 Thu WATER: What the Future May Hold** by the LWV of Greater Los Angeles 12:30-2:00pm [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link

**4/20 Thu [Understanding Universal Healthcare Part II](#), 4:00 - 5:30 pm [REGISTRATION LINK](#)** Sponsors include the LWV of Diablo Valley and LWV West Contra Costa County. LWVDV VIDEO [Understanding Universal Healthcare Part I](#), March 9, 2023

**4/20 Thu Rebuilding Water Resilience from the Bottom Up** by The LWV California Water Interest Group 5:00pm [Get info & Register Here](#)

**4/25 Tue Health and Wellness Committee** 1:00 - 2:30pm [Zoom](#) *Speaker 1:15 - 1:35* Emily Brosius, BCHD Community Services Manager, will give an update on their activities.

**4/26 Wed When Not to Send the Police: a conversation with Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore.** Part of the Reimagining Public Safety: Community of Practice Series. 9:30-10:30am PT [Register Here](#)

**4/29 Sat Tri-League Buffet Brunch** 9:30am -12:30pm **Speaker:** Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, SBCCOG **Location:** Depot Restaurant/Kimono Room 1250 Cabrillo Avenue, Torrance [Get info & Register here](#)

## May

**5/1 Mon National - Mental Health Awareness Month: Let's Talk about 988!** 5:30pm Zoom [RSVP](#) by Moms Demand Action

**5/3 Wed LWVBC Board Meeting** 3:00-5:00pm Contact [beachcitieslww@gmail.com](mailto:beachcitieslww@gmail.com) for more information

**5/10 Wed Member Mixer** 6:30-8:30pm CPK in Manhattan Beach

**5/11 Thu Water & Infrastructure (WIG) Meeting** 7:00pm more information to follow

**5/19-21 Fri-Sun [LWVC State Convention in San Francisco](#)** Online registration will close on Monday, May 15

## June

**6/3 Sat LWVBC Annual Meeting and Lunch** 10:00am - 1:00pm St. Cross Church, Hermosa Beach

**CLICK HERE FOR THE MOST UPDATED CALENDAR ONLINE**



**Two Ways to take Action with the League**



## Action Alerts and Interest Groups

Welcome to springtime....it's time to get active! Have you discovered League Action Alerts and Interest Groups? If not, here are some instructions on how to begin. Both National and State offer these opportunities for you to make a difference! If you need help getting connected, please contact Ann at [akuhns.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:akuhns.lwv@gmail.com).

[Click here to get active with the League!](#)

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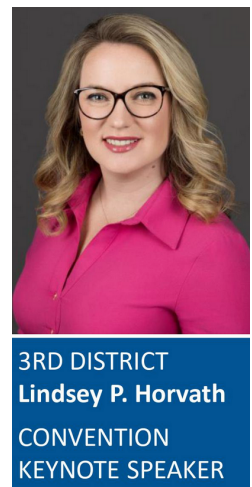
## The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County Convention

By Susan Grebe

*The LWV of LA County Conventions are where our local Leagues come together to network and plan for a year of community engagement.*

The 61st Los Angeles County Convention was held on March 25th in the city of Carson at the event center. As always it was good to connect with our fellow leaguers from around the county. The highlight of the event was our keynote speaker, Superintendent Lindsey Horvath of the 3rd district.

Lindsey is the youngest member of the Los Angeles county Board of Supervisors. She spent her early years in a small town outside of Cleveland and started off life living in a “Leave it to Beaver” world. Culture shock came when the family moved to Las Vegas in her teens. She adapted and went on to attend Norte Dame where she graduated cum Laude with a double major in Political Science and Gender Studies. She moved to Los Angeles intending to study Law at UCLA but was sidetracked by the world of advertising. She settled in West Hollywood and started her activism by founding the West Hollywood chapter of NOW. In 2009 she found herself filling a vacant seat on the West Hollywood City Council, where she served for two years. Shockingly she was defeated when she ran for re-election and came face to face with the distortions of political campaigns. She did not regain her seat until she ran again in 2015 and was soon appointed Mayor, which made her the youngest Mayor in the country. She served until 2021 when she was encouraged by Shelia Kuhl (the retiring 3rd district Board of Supervisors member) to run for her open seat.



3RD DISTRICT  
Lindsey P. Horvath  
CONVENTION  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Supervisor Horvath brings with her an impressive history of activism, she is well known for leadership on women's issues and served as Global Coordinator for One Billion Rising, a global campaign to end violence against woman and girls. She has advocated for LGBTQ as well as older adult rights. Supervisor Horvath created the first ever West Hollywood Community Response Team to Domestic Violence.

She has worked to make her city an “Age Friendly Community”, transportation and mobility issues are important to her, she has served as a Transportation Commissioner and is proud that West Hollywood has been declared the most walkable city in the state. She initiated the West Hollywood Bicycle task Force and she is strong proponent of the Metro.

An interesting aside is that she is a renter! She understands first-hand the housing crisis and it is one of her priorities as we look at her long list of activism.

Rounding out her qualifications, she has served as President of the California Contract Cities Association, and as an Executive Committee Member and Legislative & Regulatory Chair for Clean Power Alliance of Southern California. The list goes on but you get the point that this is a very qualified and motivated young woman who is working hard to make a difference!



Attending the LWVLAC Convention are, seated left to right: Peggy Bartlett, Yvette Reiner, Carol Patterson. Standing: Torrance President Gloria Gutierrez .Margie Hoyt, Susan Grebe and Fatima Malik

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Mental Health Committee

*by Mary Dillon*

On March 29<sup>th</sup> the Mental Health Committee met with Vanessa Landesfeind, Director of Student Support Services for the Centinela Valley Union High School District which includes Luezinger, Hawthorne and Lawndale High School and also Lloyd Continuation High School. Vanessa went into great detail to explain the mental health program they have in place which includes two LCSWs (Licensed Clinical Social Workers), one MFT (Marriage and Family Therapist), one Social Worker intern who focuses on attendance and one School Psychologist who focuses on the Special Education population. In addition, they refer out to a variety of outside agencies for students who may need longer term or more intensive therapy. The district has agreements with several universities in Southern California so they can get their require hours in the district towards their license. Lloyd High School, the continuations program, has a similar program but a smaller staff since the student population is smaller.



The staffing has been in place for about four years and predates the pandemic.

The original program allowed for one LCSW but due to additional funding that came out of the pandemic they were able to add the addition staff. That addition has allowed the district to go from “responding to crisis” to a program that is preventative in nature. District teachers are trained (called Tier 1) on how to recognize a student who is have mental health challenges and the academic counselors are trained (called Tier 2) on how to respond to students who may have more serious issues like suicidal ideation.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

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## Book Club/ Discussion Group



**Thank you, Debra Estroff, for leading the Book Club/Discussion Group for many years and sharing your wisdom and passions!**

The Book Club was a meaningful addition to our league activities helping to promote community and knowledge. After many years, Debra has decided to step back from organizing the Book Club, however, she will continue to stay involved with the Beach Cities league and league immigration committees.

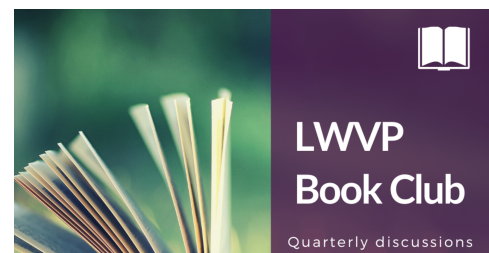
We hope to re-establish a book club again at a future time.

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**For now, we are invited to join the LWV of Piedmont's Book Club.**

The LWVP book club meets quarterly (in August, November, February, and May) on the third Tuesday of the month at 5pm PT to discuss books about politics, policy, and social issues.

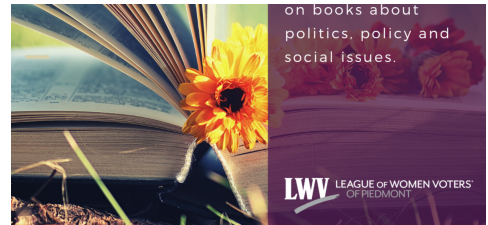
Their book club is open to the public - you don't have to be a League member. We hope you'll join the discussion!



[Get information about their books and upcoming meetings here.](#)

Their Next Book Club Meeting is Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 5pm

**Shielded: How the Police Became Untouchable**  
by Joanna Schwartz



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## Updates from State Interest Groups

### LWV of California's Health Care Interest Group

The state Health Care Interest Group (HCIG) will have a health care caucus at the May state convention focused on the LWVUS Healthcare position, highlights of the 2022 Healthy California for All Commission Report, and CA SB 770. Leagues throughout the state are educating members on mental health issues, CARE Court, and upcoming legislation. The HCIG is following California bills:

SB 326 (Eggman), which proposes amendments to the Mental Health Services Act

SB 770 (Wiener), co-sponsored by The Healthy CA Now coalition. It will be heard by the Committee on Health. This is a one-year bill, which will need to pass the Senate by June, and then move to the Assembly. SB 770 Fact Sheet - Unified Healthcare Financing

AB 1690 (Kalra), is a two-year bill; it is a policy bill to provide universal health care. It will not be active until 2024.

Diablo Valley and West Contra Costa County leagues are hosting a program on Understanding Universal Healthcare Part II, April 20, 2023 4-5:30 PM REGISTRATION LWVDV VIDEO Understanding Universal Healthcare Part I, March 9, 2023 can also be found on our website calendar and Health Care Reform webpage.

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### Update from the LWV of California's Criminal Justice Committee

By Carolyn Eggleston, Ph.D.

The League of Women Voters of LA County supported the motion sponsored by LA County Supervisor Horvath on *Ensuring Reliable Access to Reading Materials for Individuals Incarcerated in LA County Jails*. The motion called for the Sheriff's Office to provide additional bookshelves in common areas and mobile book carts for in-cell use. In addition, it suggested more work be done on soliciting book donations for the jails.

Reading and education are often one of few positive routes for jail prisoners to improve themselves and break the cycle of incarceration. Offering constructive support for such efforts is an area that the Sheriff's Department can facilitate. It is a way for jail prisoners to change their lives in a prosocial and legal way.

The Board of Supervisors supported the motion, and on March 7, passed it unanimously. They will expect an update on progress from the Sheriff's office with their plans to implement the recommendations.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission recently completed an investigation into deputy gangs

within the Sheriff's Department. The investigation led to a report on their investigation, citing ample documentation that deputy gangs have been operating for over 50 years in Los Angeles. There were 27 recommendations presented to the Commission. They approved the recommendations and adopted all 27 recommendations.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

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## SAVE THE DATES!

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**The LWVC Convention is back IN-person in San Francisco, CA!**

**May 19-21, 2023**

at the [Hyatt Regency Downtown SOMA Hotel](#).



Get a dose of inspiration that can empower you to increase your civic engagement at the state convention on May 19–21 in San Francisco.

It's a great way to meet members across the state and learn from their experience.

Questions? Email [convention@lwvc.org](mailto:convention@lwvc.org)

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## LWV Beach Cities Annual Meeting & Lunch



**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m**  
at **St. Cross Church**  
1818 Monterey Blvd., Hermosa Beach, CA

Elect our new officers! Approve the budget! Determine next year's focus!

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## New Members!

Please welcome the following new members  
who have joined since January 2023:

- Olive Long of Los Angeles
- E. Smoky Dagan of Redondo Beach
- Shannon L. Keating & Pat Keating of Redondo Beach
- Barbara "Bonnie" Yatabe of El Segundo
- Laura Fisherman of Hawthorne



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THANKS FOR ATTENDING THE  
**NON-EVENT EVENT!**

**Thank You Dear Members for your Non-Event Contributions**

Jane Affonso	Franlie Gelbwachs	Sunhee Park
Jennifer Agglio	Susan Grebe	Carol Patterson
Martha Andriani	Jeanne Hamilton	Wendy Phillips
Cecilia Ball	Donna Howland	Grace Peng
Peggy Bartlett	Kay Hudspeth	Vivian Rahe
Don & Sari Brann	Alli Jason	Yvette Reiner
Paulette Caudill	Betty Keel	Laura Schwartz
Chris Davis	Ann Kuhns	Mignon Thiem-Murphy
Michele Devlin	Joan LeSage	Marc Tietelbaum
Mary Dillon	Lillian Lunt	Margaret Thelen
Marilyn Dubas	Penny Markey	Carole Vallianos
Colleen Egan	Jane Munson	April Wayland
June Eicker	Michelle Murphy	Nancy Wilcox
Roslyn Fanello	Jan Nathanson	
Denise Fessenbecker	Teri Neustaedter	

**Your generous contributions have so far amounted to over \$4000.00**

With these additional funds we will be able to send two delegates to our State Convention in San Francisco this June. We will be sending the first \$1000 check to our recipient Camille who plans to enter the nursing program at El Camino this fall. We hope to present more Scholarships to local students planning on attending one of our Community Colleges. The Scholarships are not large but in the past it has helped our students with books, supplies and even a computer.

**We appreciate every single one of you!**

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**Join us every Friday morning at 10:30am!**

**Our League members and guests have informal conversations about what's going on in our League and in our world.**

**Get the Zoom Link here: <https://lwvbeachcities.org/events#coffee>**



# Happy Friday!



Join us for

# coffee with the league

## VOLUNTEER WITH US!



If you care about democracy as much as we do, we hope you'll consider joining our team! We are an all volunteer organization with "jobs" that range from once in a while tasks to full year positions.

Join our group of fun, passionate volunteers and help make a difference in your community!

## Where do we stand?

### Impact on Issues

2022-2024:

A Guide to Public Policy Positions  
of the League of Women Voters

The definitive publication on LWVUS positions and the history of their use. [Download now.](#) Available in paperback and kindle for \$5 from [Amazon.](#)



Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government.

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.

## Who do I contact for information? LWVBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023–2024



### THE VOTER

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of the Beach Cities

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