



The VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long
VOTER Editor: Dotti Garcia
February, 2017

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gloria Anderson

February 14 is not only Valentine's Day, it is also the 97th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States. We will be observing that milestone at our February 25 meeting that will be held at the Garcia Center for the Arts from 2 to 4 P.M. National issues will be in the spotlight, with **Jonathan Anderson** leading a discussion of the Electoral College, which the League has for many years wanted to be abolished, and the National Popular Vote---and **Shirley Harlan** leading a discussion of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare). Incidentally, a recent survey has revealed that about 1/3 of those surveyed did not know that the Affordable Care Act and Obamacare are the same program, and that many of them approved of the Affordable Care Act and disapproved of Obamacare.

Looking ahead to March 11, we will be giving you an opportunity to weigh in on whether we should take a position on Nestle's permit to take water from Strawberry Creek up in our mountains. (See Susan Longville's article on the next page.) As you may have seen in the newspapers, we co-sponsored a meeting with the Save Our Forest Association (SOFA) on that issue that drew a standing-room only crowd to Twin Peaks on January 29. Our role was to provide background information about those who are involved—the U.S. Forest Service, Nestle, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Then SOFA had a Call to Action during the second part of the meeting. Thanks to Susan Longville for the tremendous effort she put forth to organize the meeting, and to Betsy Starbuck and Susan Nieblas for their help. I was also one of the participants.

FYI – March 17 is the 62nd anniversary of when League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area received recognition from LWVUS as a local league. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our League with your membership.

We also want to welcome Bobbie Terrell to the board as Treasurer, filling out the term of Valerie Lichtman. We thank Valerie for her service. We also are happy to have Miriam Nieto on the board as our Membership Chair.

You will also find a flyer for a Women's History Month event we are co-sponsoring in Rialto on March 4. We have a table reserved for us as well as a table that will give attendees information about our League, so we hope to get some new members. Please let Miriam know by February 25 if you will be attending, so that we can reserve a spot for you. Her email is mnieto005@gmail.com and her phone number is 310-817-1382.

Some other dates to put on your calendar: April 8 –Member Meeting; May 7 – Citizens of Achievement recognition; June 10 – 62nd Annual Meeting. Details to follow.

And, again I say, that we know that League members are busy people, but we hope that you will consider being involved in these and other activities of your League.

Gloria

Anderson

FEBRUARY 25, 2-4 p.m.
Garcia Center for the Arts
11th and E Streets, San Bernardino
Electoral College and Affordable Care Act---Important Discussions

Come and hear about the whys and wherefores of our national Electoral College. LWVSB member Dr. **Jonathan Anderson**, Chair of the Business Administration Dept. at CSUSB, will lead a discussion on the workings of the Electoral College, and some potential ways to change this old governmental procedure. Also, at this meeting, member **Shirley Harlan** will lead discussion on the Affordable Care Act, how it currently operates and possible changes proposed by the new administration---and, again, possibilities for maintaining health care or all.

This meeting is open to the public---bring your friends to hear what's in the wind for both these issues.

MARCH 11-MEMBER MEETING ON WATER ISSUE

by
Susan Longville

Our League hosted an Informational Hearing at the Twin Peaks Community Center on Sunday, January 29, 2017 on the expired Special Use Permit that allows Nestle to remove water from Strawberry Creek in the San Bernardino National Forest that is bottled and sold as Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water.

To a packed house of residents and environmental activists, the League presented testimony obtained from the San Bernardino National Forest, Nestle Waters of North America, and the State Water Resources Control Board. We also heard from a retired Forest Service biologist familiar with the local impacts of Nestle extracting more than four billion gallons of water from 1947-2015.

Now the League Board is inviting our members to join us on Saturday, March 11 at 10:00 A.M. at the Garcia Center for the Arts, located on 11th Street at E Street to hear a summary of the testimony that was provided at the hearing and join us in deciding whether to take a formal position on the continued use of public lands to extract and transport water for bottling purposes.

As you may know, our League subscribes to the positions held by the LWV on the national and state levels. We also maintain and update local positions on a variety of issues, including water that currently states: “Support of water management measures that are aimed at maintaining a reliable supply of safe water to meet the needs of the San Bernardino area and the environment and to maintain high water quality in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed.”

After thoroughly studying local water issues, our LWVSB has taken formal positions on local water issues in the past, most notably when it strongly opposed San Bernardino Valley joining the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California back in the 1960s. The voters agreed and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District remained independent ultimately securing a contract from the State Water Project to import water from Northern California to meet local needs.

**A National
Women's
History
Month Event**

Hosted by
Rialto Mayor
Deborah Robertson

Rialto City Clerk
Barbara McGee

National Council of
Negro Women,
Inland Empire Section

Woman's Club of Rialto

League of Women Voters
San Bernardino Area



**Honoring
Trailblazing
WOMEN
in Labor and Business**

Saturday, March 4, 2017

**2225 N. Alder Ave.
Rialto, CA**

(North of the 210 Freeway at the Corner of Alder and Casmalia)

Join us in a day of recognizing and celebrating
dynamic women who represent our community

9:30am **Brunch and visit vendor booths**
11:30am **Program Starts**

2017 Jewel Award
Gift Basket Raffles by The Bountiful Basket

LIMITED SEATING and FOOD TICKETS
will be on a First Come, First Serve Basis

Please RSVP
City Clerk's Office (909) 820-2519
WomensEvent@rialtoca.gov

Please RSVP to:

Miriam Nieto ---mnieto005@gmail.com

She will call in reservations for our table at the event.

Dates to Remember:

LWVCalifornia Supports Health Care Bill (Second printing of article)

This article is forwarded to us from LWVSB member, **Shirley Harlan**:

“California Single Payer Health Care Bill Passes Health Committee:

From the Office of Sen. Mark Leno---

The Senate Health Committee today approved the California Universal Health Care Act, authored by Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). Senate Bill 810 guarantees all Californians comprehensive, universal health care while containing ballooning health care costs and improving the quality of care and delivery of health services statewide. The legislation passed with a 5-3 vote.

‘California is being overrun by out-of-control health care costs, which has a significant impact on the state budget, businesses and families,’ said Senator Leno, D-San Francisco. ‘Our single-payer plan not only guarantees universal coverage for all Californians, but also contains health care costs, which is essential to solving our state budget crisis in the long term’

SB 810 creates a private-public partnership to provide every California resident medical, dental, vision, hospitalization and prescription drug benefits and allows patients to choose their own doctors and hospitals. This single payer, “Medicare for All” type program works by pooling together the money that government, employers and individuals already spend on health care and putting it to better use by cutting out the for-profit middle man.

‘We must continue to fight for health care for every Californian,’ said DeAnn McEwan, President of the California Nurses Association and a nurse at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. ‘Federal reform does not insure that all Californians will receive the care they need. President Obama noted that if states come up with a better plan, they could move forward. Californians deserve the best. Senate Bill 810 will provide every Californian with an excellent standard of care, improve health outcomes, and finally get health care costs under control.’

California currently spends \$200 billion annually on a fragmented, inefficient health care system that wastes 30% of every dollar on administration. Under Senate Bill 810, that wasteful spending is eliminated. This bill creates no new spending, and in fact, studies show that the state would save \$8 billion in the first year under this single-payer health care plan.

‘Most doctors support a public-private partnership like Medicare, but with everybody covered, better benefits, and lower costs,’ said Dr. Henry L. Abrons, president of Physicians for a National Health Program, California Chapter, ‘We need to spend our precious resources wisely. Federal reform won’t accomplish these things, but SB 810 will.’

'Health Care for All realizes that the only way to provide better health care for absolutely everyone, for less money than we're now spending, and control rising costs, is to pass a bill like SB 810 and then make the necessary changes to finance it,' said Craig Brockbank, chair of Health Care for All, California. 'We stand ready to do our part in making that happen, and then to help successfully implement it.'

SB810 is sponsored and supported by a coalition of patients, nurses, doctors, teachers and school employees, small businesses, faith community members, retirees, local governments and school districts. These groups represent more than 2 million Californians. {Ed. Note- The bill is also sponsored by many professional organization such as} California Nurses Assn., , California School Employees Assn., Physicians for a National Health Program-California, California Teachers Assn., California Federation of Teachers, California Alliance of Retired Americans, **League of Women Voters, California** Consumer Federation, National Organization for Women, California, California Health Professional Student Alliance and several others."