



The Voter



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

September - time flies! The election season is upon us and as always, we will be involved. Some of our activities include:

- * Candidates Forums. Working with the League members at large in the High Desert to have a presence at the forums organized by the newspaper up there and organizing a Redlands City Council candidates meeting - details to be announced
- * Education and advocacy on proposed San Bernardino City Charter changes (See related article.)
- * Education and advocacy on the November state ballot measures (See related article on League’s positions.)
- * Distributing Easy Voter Guides in English and Spanish (Let us know if you want some.)
- * Participating in National Voter Registration Day on September 23. (See related article.)

President’s message continued on p. 2

MEDICARE’S 49TH BIRTHDAY!

Medicare turned 49 years old on July 30th. Members of our league participated in the birthday celebration singing with candles held high, balloons, banner and handouts at the Inland Center Mall. We counted about 50 persons young and old from various local organizations and individuals who are Medicare supporters proud to sing the praises of a program that has provided health care and peace of mind for America’s elderly and disabled. Watch the seven-minute you tube video!

<http://youtu.be/8cOooF9YUTw>

We may have sung off key but we were right on with our message! Our message was:

*Improve It,
Protect it,
Expand it for Everyone.*

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SAN BERNARDINO CHARTER REFORM

Charter Reform for the City of San Bernardino is long overdue. The Charter is a cumbersome document that needs updating and revisions. For a policy document it is filled with procedures and antiquated provisions.

I was part of the nine member Volunteer Citizens Charter Committee appointed by the Mayor and Council. Our first meeting was April 9, 2014 and we were charged to make recommendations by May 19th to the Mayor and Common Council for possible adoption to place before the voters in November. We adopted principles and objectives. The complete document is available from the city clerk but let me just mention two of them. Under Principles and Standards the committee agreed that the Charter should set forth guiding principles and standards, not detailed rules and procedures and under the title Enabling we also agreed that the Charter should be designed to enable the city to operate in an efficient, businesslike manner.

The Charter Committee unanimous voted to make five recommendations which were presented to the Council for discussion and for public hearings. The Council voted to place two before the voters this November. They are:

1. Revise Section 254 - Under present section 254, if a city employee has been discharged after appropriate civil service hearing, such employee is continued to be paid throughout the time of any appeal by the employee. This is inappropriate since if the employee's appeal is successful, pay will be made retroactively for that period of time, while if it is unsuccessful, the city will have had to pay additional funds for no service rendered for the city. This proposed amendment eliminates payment during appeal.

2. Replace Section 186 - The new section 186 affirms that public safety is a highest priority of City government and leaves the procedure for paying safety employees the same as is used for all other city employees. It removes from the section all procedures and leaves it to negotiators from both sides to meet and determine the negotiation process. The Committee concluded that section 186, as currently stated in the

Charter, significantly decreases the amount of flexibility the Mayor, City Manager and Council have to govern the City and best provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

The committee also is hopeful it can continue its work on the Charter so a comprehensive revision can be made.

Everything I have stated is taken from the my Committee notes and documents. We, the voters only have an opportunity to revise our Charter every two years and only we can do it through our vote so please make your voice heard in November.

-Gloria M. Harrison



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued from p.1

In addition, your board is planning meetings and events for the coming year based on the priorities the members agreed on at the Annual Meeting - Education and advocacy on Civic Learning and Civic Engagement. We also hope to have a meeting on a state and national priority - Money in Politics - possibly in Redlands.

Stand by for further information. We welcome your participation and your ideas. Onward!

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MEDICARE'S 49TH BIRTHDAY! (continued from p.1)



FORTY-NINE YEARS AGO, our government established health care as a human right for people 65 years and older, who would contribute to the new program, MEDICARE, through payroll deductions. For close to 45 million retired seniors, in 2014, it pays for hospital and outpatient medical care, physician visits, stays in skilled nursing programs, home health care, pharmaceuticals and special medical equipment.

Our event was one of fourteen state rallies sponsored by the California Alliance for Retired Americans and the Campaign for a Healthy California.

The San Gabriel League of Women Voters supplied our red and white banner that we may continue to display at future events.

The handout "Why is a Medicare for All program the way to finish the job that the Affordable Care Act started." is available for distribution. It is important that we continue to educate the public in these times when both Social Security and Medicare programs are under critical scrutiny.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Plans are well underway for this year's National Voter Registration Day that will be taking place on September 23. The theme for this year is Celebrating Democracy in America.

Our local chapter of LWV is leading the way and partnering with local organizations, churches, schools and universities to make NVRD a success in the Inland Empire. We have asked the County Board of Supervisors and Mayors in the cities of Colton, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, and San Bernardino to issue a proclamation designating September 23 as VOTER REGISTRATION DAY throughout the County and in their respective cities.

On August 19, Voter Services Director Rachel Clark participated in an hour-long Webinar hosted by the League of Women Voters, Bus Federation, and Vote-Latino. This Webinar provided helpful information on resources available for NVRD and suggestions for voter registration venues. That same evening, Rachel Clark hosted a meeting at her home and it was a very positive and productive meeting. Two generations were present – the “older” generation was represented by League members Valerie Lichtman, Marilyn Patterson, and Rachel Clark and the “younger” generation was represented by Michael Segura of SB Generation Now, and Richard Tejada of CSUSB/Mayor's Office. Others who were invited expressed interest in being involved with NVRD but due to school conflicts were unable to attend the meeting.



It was the consensus of those present that this year we will focus our registration efforts on local churches, schools, colleges and CSUSB and we will begin our NVRD events on Sunday, September 21. We have asked local churches to give us permission to register voters on Sunday, September 21, and the “younger” generation is working on setting up registration sites at SBVC and CSUSB. San Bernardino Adult School has agreed to partner with us and we will have volunteers at the Adult School on September 23.

Those who have not taken a voter registration class at the Registrar of Voters Office must do so before they can register voters. Volunteers are encouraged to attend classes at 10:30 a.m. on either Tuesday, September 9, or Tuesday, September 16. The Registrar of Voters Office is located at 777 East Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA.

If any of our LWV members would like to participate in NVRD, please email Rachel Clark at rachelgmc-lark@gmail.com. The more volunteers that we can recruit, the more successful we will be at encouraging citizens to get involved in the democratic process by registering to vote and supporting NVRD events.

Submitted by Rachel Clark, Voter Services Director
August 27, 2014

On September 9, 2014 the City of Highland recognized the work of the *League of Women Voters of San Bernardino* with a proclamation. (See the proclamation on page 5.) Colton, Rialto, Redlands, and San Bernardino have also thanked us with proclamations. Organizations supporting NVRD also include ICUC (Inland Congregations United for Change); SB Gen Now (San Bernardino Generation Now); Libreria del Pueblo, and Time for Change Foundation.

We will be registering voters at San Bernardino Adult School; New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, and other venues. If you would like to help, call Rachel Clark.



***League of Women Voters of San Bernardino
1955-NOW!***

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CALENDAR

September 23, 2014: National Voter Registration Day
(Contact Rachel Clark if you would like to help).

November 4, 2014: Election Day!

***League of Women Voters:
Because democracy is not a spectator sport!***

LWVC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

Support Proposition 2, to strengthen the state's rainy day fund. The LWVC supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund.

Support Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. Prop 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime

Read our Vote with the League flyer and look for other action materials related to the election later this month.

We take stands on ballot measures based on current program positions and/or on League Principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus. How does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items? Learn how we decided to make these recommendations.

For further information on the League of Women Voters of California recommendations see: <http://lwvc.org/ballot-recommendations>