



# The Voter

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! It’s time to get back to the business of “Making Democracy Work”.

We have set dates and are planning League activities between now and June, so we hope you will plan to get involved in the next few months.

Important dates: FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 14, APRIL 12, and MAY 30

You should have received a Save the Date notice of our meeting on February 28. Since civic engagement is one of our priorities, how do we turn apathy into action? We hope to find some answers to that thorny question at our brainstorming session to explore ideas for overcoming apathy and for collective action to get more public involvement in elections and other issues that affect the lives of people in the area. Good news about something that is happening along those lines - a Service Council is being formed in San Bernardino to bring together groups that can work together on projects of mutual interest. More about that as the group is organized. Let us know if you would like to be involved.

An important milestone we will reach in March is the 60th anniversary of when our League received recognition as a local League. There will be a “gala celebration” at the Arrowhead Country Club from 2 to 4 pm. on March 14, the weekend before the actual date, March 17. We are hoping to get proclamations from cities in the area.

Sunday, April 12 is the date for this year’s Citizens of Achievement recognition. It will again be held at the Elks Club. We have begun soliciting nominations. Since 1975 we have honored over 700 individuals and a youth organization for making a difference in their communities. Let us know if you would like to help.

Our 60th Annual Meeting will be on May 30. As always, you will get information about that around May 1.

Finally, thanks to Shirley Harlan and Mary Saxon Hobbs, we have a beautiful new membership brochure that we hope will attract new members. Please let us know if you have some prospective members who should get one of the brochures.

So you can see, there are a number of opportunities for you to participate in the months to come. And of course, even if you can’t participate, we value having you as a member.

Gloria Anderson  
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909-338-4163

## OVERCOMING APATHY

A brainstorming session to explore ideas to overcome apathy and to get more involvement in collective problem-solving.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?** Anyone who wants to work together to motivate others to be involved

**WHEN?** Saturday, February 28 - 10 AM to 12 noon

**WHERE?** InnovAge - 401 ParkCenter Circle North, San Bernardino  
(Off South Waterman between Orange Show & the 10 Fwy)

For information, call Gloria Anderson at 909-338-4163 or email [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com).

## LEAGUE ADVOCACY ON MONEY IN POLITICS IN 2015

The League of Women Voters of California has revised their strategy on campaign finance reform. Their focus will be on advocacy for rebuilding Cal-Access (a campaign and lobbying financial disclosure system) to directly and materially improve transparency regarding money in politics.

This work will absorb a lot of time and energy. There will be less time to devote to specific legislation. The LWVC will actively support those bills that would improve the regulation of money in politics.

To see both the successes and the setbacks of the last year, see the League's 2013--2014 Bill Status Report at <http://lwvc.org/act-now/bill-status-report>.

It is a difficult political issue. Developing sound "follow the money" provisions that will receive broad enough support in both houses of the California Congress to garner the supermajority support necessary for the bills to become law has been problematic.

Various scandals made campaign finance reform a "hot topic" in 2014. It is expected that developing and passing sound legislation to address the problems will be more difficult in 2015. LWVC recognizes that rebuilding the Cal-Access campaign and lobbying disclosure system is a crucial first step toward raising public awareness needed for any regulation of campaign fundraising and spending to work.

Moving Cal-Access forward has been prioritized. LWVC is working with the Secretary of State, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FFPC), and other stakeholders to rebuild Cal-Access.

LWVC will consider the viability of proposals as we invest our limited resources of time and effort. Considering the difficulties its sponsors have had in drafting sound "follow the money" provisions that can garner the needed support, we do not anticipate major League efforts to support the California Disclose Act.

League members are, of course, free to work with the California Clean Money Campaign as individuals, but not as representatives of LWV, and they should not mention the League in communications about CCMC legislation.

Questions? Contact Joanne LEavitt, [jleavitt@lwvc.org](mailto:jleavitt@lwvc.org) or Trudy Schafer, [tschafer@lwvc.org](mailto:tschafer@lwvc.org).

*Information from the January 2015 LWVC Leaders Update.*

## Homeless Count Volunteer Report

Arrived at 5:00 a.m. Jan. 22nd at the San Manuel Baseball parking lot for the final briefing for San Bernardino County's 2015 Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Subpopulation Survey before searching San Bernardino City area to count the homeless. The San Bernardino Command Post Unit was there with staff to set up tables to register us volunteers, and where we picked up orange vests, survey forms and maps. We organized into teams. My friend Nellie Frazier and I joined with three other women and one man to form Team Number 9. During the next four hours we drove to designated spots, which were possible homeless camps on our assigned map. We located 30 homeless persons.



Micah Escamilla — Staff photographer for the Sun Telegram took this photograph of our briefing by Sergeant Shauna Gates.

The one-day count helps retrieve the information needed to request federal funding that supports local programs and services that help get homeless off the street.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required local homeless continuum of care systems to count homeless individuals and families during the last 10 days of January in order to receive HUD grant funds since 2003. In addition HUD requires that we gather information about subpopulations that include the chronically homeless individuals, families, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with mental illness, unaccompanied youth under age 18, substance abusers, veterans, and victims of domestic violence.

I was both saddened and uplifted by the homeless persons. Saddened by the barefoot woman in the park who ran off at our approach. Uplifted by two homeless men who had gathered bottles and were assisting at a recycle market spot. Saddened by a senior disabled veteran and his dog living in an alley makeshift cardboard encampment. Uplifted by another senior's smiles and humor selling newspapers to ward off his plight. I saw and engaged with human beings who struggle to live daily in a manner that is absent from my view.

Since the 1980's the homeless population is more diversified and has increased in numbers than before. At clusters, neighborhood watch groups, coffee with cops, our city council and business meetings citizens and merchants complain.

The count I participated in hopefully contributes to reverse a centuries-old trend of avoiding homeless people and helps our jurisdiction review and promote effective homeless service provisions. From the little I saw, we will never eliminate homelessness but the plight of some of these persons could be changed.

*Shirley Harlan*

## MONEY IN POLITICS: SUGGESTED READING LIST

### Money in Politics Review

This list of suggested reading material is intended to help League members get started in learning about the complex topic of Money in Politics. This is an initial list designed to orient League members and the general citizenry to the issues. Other suggestions will be added to the list in the future. The readings were selected with several key considerations in mind. First, the material is considered relevant to the scope of the work of the Money in Politics Committee, such as providing a historical overview of the subject matter and/or addressing recent events. Second, the material is generally accessible and available for either purchase or review on-line. Third, the list represents differing points of view and different aspects of the general topic so that the reader is exposed to a broad range of viewpoints and appreciation of the complexity of the issues. No single source covers all aspects of the topic. The material is intended to be educational in nature and does not represent the viewpoints of the League of Women Voters.

### Books:

- La Raja, Raymond J. 2008. *Small Change: Money, Political Parties, and Campaign Finance Reform*. Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan Press.
- Lessig, Lawrence. 2011. *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress – and a Plan to Stop It*. New York. Twelve Hachette Book Group.
- Magleby, David B., Editor. 2014. *Financing the 2012 Election*. Washington, D.C. The Brookings Institution.
- Powell, Lynda W. 2012. *The Influence of Campaign Contributions in State Legislatures: The Effects of Institutions and Politics*. Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan Press.
- Samples, John. 2006. *The Fallacy of Campaign Finance Reform*. Chicago and London. The University of Chicago Press.

- Tokaji, Daniel P. & Strause, Renata E. B. 2014. *The New Soft Money: Outside Spending in Congressional Elections*. The Ohio State University Moritz School of Law. Electronic link: <http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/thenewsoft-money/wp-content/uploads/sites/57/201...>
- Vogel, Kenneth P. 2014. *Big Money*. New York. Public Affairs Perseus Book Group.

### Chapters in Books:

- Levy, Robert A. & Mellor, William H. 2008. "Campaign Finance Reform and Free Speech." Ch. 5 in *The Dirty Dozen: How Twelve Supreme Court Cases Radically Expanded Government and Eroded Freedom*. New York. Penguin Group, pp. 89-106.
- Stevens, John Paul. 2014. "Campaign Finance." Ch. 3 in *Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution*. New York. Little, Brown, pp. 57-79.

### Other Sources

- American Civil Liberties Union. 2012. "Taking Back Our Democracy: Responding to Citizens United and the Rise of Super PACs." Testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, July 24. Available at: [https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/aclu\\_statement\\_on\\_citizens\\_united\\_7\\_24\\_hearing\\_final.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/aclu_statement_on_citizens_united_7_24_hearing_final.pdf)

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

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

### CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY 28, 10 am-noon: Overcome Apathy! Meeting: InnovAge - 401 ParkCenter Circle North, San Bernardino.
- MARCH 14, 2-4pm: LWV San Bernardino's Birthday Celebration! Arrowhead Country Club, 3433 Parkside Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404.
- APRIL 12, 2-4 pm: Citizens of Achievement Reception, Elks Club, 2055 Elks Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404.
- MAY 30, 10 am-2 pm: LWV San Bernardino Annual Meeting, Arrowhead Country Club, 3433 Parkside Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404.

### HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FUNDRAISER



Irma Strantz has planned a fund raiser for LWV supporting a grassroots campaign for universal health care in California at the Pasadena Playhouse for Sunday, March 29th Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw. Tickets are \$55.

"In this fresh interpretation of PYGMALION, first presented on stage in 1912, phonetics professor Henry Higgins bets that after he finishes transforming Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, her flawless speech and delicate façade will allow her to pass for a duchess at an ambassador's garden party. This classic favorite perfectly skewers the rigid British class system and continues to serve as an insightful commentary on women's independence."

I expect to attend and it is an opportunity to meet the active San Gabriel leagues members.

For information contact Shirley: [vldy@aol.com](mailto:vldy@aol.com) or (909) 882-4057.

*Shirley Harlan*