



The

VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long
VOTER Editor: Dotti Garcia
November, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gloria Anderson, Co-President

October might be called Voter Service month since most of our activities were election-related. Among them were:

- Voter registration drives, including National Voter Registration Day on September 22nd. Kudos and many thanks to **Rachel Clark** for many hours spent organizing this event, and thanks to League members and others for their help.
- San Bernardino Candidates Forum on October 8th at the San Bernardino City Hall. Thanks go to members who helped with that: **Vanessa Perez**

for moderating; **Gigi Hanna** for logistics; **Amy Ellison** for timekeeping; **Shirley Harlan** for distributing audience question cards; **Jill Vassilakos-Long** and **Dotti Garcia** for vetting the audience questions; and **Barbara Sokoloff** for greeting people as they arrived. The forum was recorded and it will be shown several times before the election on Channel 3, and iemediagroup.tv/index.php for those who don't get Channel 3.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a lively discussion of Money in Politics on November 21st at the Feldheim Library at 1:15 p.m. This is part of the update of our LWVUS Campaign Finance position that delegates

to the last national convention thought should be done. As you know, the Supreme Court's decision ended about 100 years of campaign finance laws that our position is based on, and we have no position on some of the solutions that have been proposed to curb the influence of money that was unleashed by the decision. One of these is whether we would support a constitutional amendment to repeal Citizens United, so we will also be looking at whether we support that issue.

You can also look for a new membership directory in November. We are planning to put out a digital directory, but we will send hard copy directories to those of you who don't have email.

And finally, looking ahead, we have set December 5th for our Holiday Party. Details will follow, but save the date. Gloria

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS
ON THE SAN BERNARDINO CITY CHARTER**

From Gigi Hanna, City Clerk:

The SBCUSD has graciously allowed us to use school sites for our community engagement forums on the Charter, which will begin in November and continue in Spring 2016 in anticipation of the matter going to the November 2016 ballot. We have confirmation for three meetings:

November 4, 6:30 p.m. @Golden Valley Middle School, 3800 Waterman Ave., SB 92404 (4th Ward)

November 5, 6:30 p.m. @ Arroyo Valley High School, 1881 W. Base Line, SB 92411 (6th Ward)

November 9th, 6:30 p.m. @Indian Springs High School, 650 No. Del Rosa Dr., SB 92410 (1st Ward)

Meetings will be scheduled in the other four wards after January. All meetings begin at 6:30 and last an hour to 90 minutes.



**Everyone is invited to a
League Forum
ON
MONEY IN POLITICS**

**Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 1:15pm
Feldheim Library, 555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino 92410**

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area

(League members will weigh on this important issue... and send a message to the national LWV)

For additional information, contact Jill Vassilakos-Long

Phone: 909-649-1310 Email: jvlong@csusb.edu



TECH CORNER PART II(A Few New Things)

By Jill Vassilakos-Long

Last month I talked about podcasts---you can listen to them whenever it is convenient for you. Here are more podcasts of interest:

Citizen Radio – Alison Kilkenney (reporter) and Jamie Kilstein (comedian), twenty-somethings with progressive political views, discuss the news of the day. There is quite a bit of profanity, and sometimes the show descends into silliness. The quality is uneven, with the first twenty minutes of some episodes focused on funding a CD, but I usually enjoyed the Lady Power Hour episodes in which Alison Kilkenny hosts female guests when Jamie is away. Lady Power Hour discussions included a question about feminist portrayals in popular culture (they liked Lisa Simpson of *The Simpsons* and Topanga of *Boy Meets World*, but could not think of any recently created popular characters); concerns about “female Viagra; and a response to a listener who wondered if she could change the system from within by joining the Foreign Service. (Their answer was “no.”) Very interesting discussions. I don't think that I will subscribe, but I might check out their past episodes every once in a while and download selectively. They keep past episodes up for several months.

Daily Kos Radio – The Daily Kos blog presents a radio show, Daily Kos: Kagro in the Morning. This meandering two hour long weekday reflection on current issues features David Waldman. A recent episode included his thoughts on fasting for Yom Kippur, long guest visits

from Joan McCarter (in which she mostly plugged forthcoming events) and from Armando Llorens-Sar, who offered his wisdom on politicians moderating their views to get elected. Past shows are kept up for approximately six months.

Slate's Political Gabfest - Slate/s Emily Bazelon, John Dickerson, and David Plotz discuss current political news in this weekly show. Recent shows included a discussion of the second Republican debate, a discussion of people working on personal productivity, what motivates people to get into politics, how the world has supported refugees in the past, the "fun" 1964 San Francisco Republican Convention at which Barry Goldwater said "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice, moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue", and the Donald Trump's comments on germs. Past shows are available for approximately a month.

Slate's The Gist – Mike Pesca riffs on current news stories. A recent show included fake (and disgusting) news stories from England, the "health" of "Obama Care," an examination of whether or not there are any members of Congress who oppose both abortion and the death penalty. More than a year of past shows of the half-hour weekday news show are available for download.

So That Happened (sponsored by the Rachel Maddow Show) – Weekly, usually an hour long. Huffington Post reporters discussing recent news stories. A recent show included an analysis of the Pope's presentation to Congress, songs played at political rallies, and Scott Walker's exit from the presidential race. Predominantly liberal slant. Almost a year of past episodes are available.

Weekly Standard Podcasts – Daily show (length varies, usually around a quarter of an hour) of host Michael Graham discussing recent news with conservative political pundits, mostly writers from *The Weekly Standard*. Recent stories included Steve Hayes' story on Scott Walker's exit from the presidential race and Bill Kristol's commentary that the media turned on Carly Fiorina months ago, while coddling Hillary Clinton. Past episodes are kept available for approximately six months.

The Young Turks Audio Podcast – This is a portion of "The Young Turks" main show, which is available over the TYT network. The Cenk Uygur and Ana Kasparian hosted audio podcast is approximately one hour, weekdays. A

look at the news, featuring sarcasm and deriding figures in the news. The political tone is often libertarian, and is mostly liberal on social issues, generally conservative on fiscal issues. Recent topics included a discussion of Ben Carson's intelligence, people dying when taking "selfies" (self-portraits), Britain's elections, and a police officer who gave someone a ticket because she didn't immediately inform him that she was HIV positive during a traffic stop. Several months of past shows are available for download.

So at the end of it all... I love Diane Rehm (reviewed last month). I hope that this gives you enough information to decide on whether or not you want to try one of these!

Jill

**Remember to VOTE – in person, or by mail
so your ballot arrives by November 3rd !**

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Following is the list of members who have paid dues as of October 22nd. If your name is not here, perhaps you paid after that date, or you have forgotten to pay. If you need information on this, please contact Jill (909-649-1310), Gloria (909-338-4163) or Treasurer Val Lichtman at (909) 882-6148.

Pam Ford and Ken Alford
Gloria Anderson
Jonathan and Mary Anderson
Dennis Baxter
Anne Brennan
Lois Carson
Rachel Clark
Thomas Dodson
Amy Ellison
Kathryn Ervin
Lenore Frost
Dotti Garcia
Shirley Harlan
Gloria Macias Harrison
Carol Hartman
Kathy Holland

**LWV California and US Positions on
Campaign Financing
and Money in Politics**

In preparation for the meeting on Money in Politics, it might be good to be aware of both the State and National League positions on this issue:

LWVUS: Campaign Financing

Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

LWVC: Money in Politics

Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.



Mary Etta Johnson
Vivian Kassel
Bill Lemann
Valerie Lichtman
Susan and John Longville
Barbara McGee
Mildred McKim
Melvin and Jennifer McMullen
Virginia Marquez
Hon. Patrick and Sally Morris
James Mulvihill
Susan Nieblas
Marilyn Patterson
Ruth Petrucci (Life member)
Beverly Powell
Carol Robb
Jane Roberts
Judth Rogers
Mary Saxon Hobbs
Michael Segura
Barbara Sokoloff
Betsy Starbuck
Bobbie Terrell
Jill Vassilakos-Long
Nancy Ruth White