



# The Voter

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,  
The last LWVSB event of the 2016/17 year was the Annual Meeting held on June 10, 2017. It was a time to look back and to look forward.

Caroline de Llamas (our state League advisor) drove for hours to present our League with the 2017 Award for Strengthening Democracy. Of all the leagues in California we were voted as deserving of this award for our League’s work on the successful campaign for a new San Bernardino City Charter.



*Carolyn de Llamas presented the 2017 LWVC Award for Strengthening Democracy, Small League (fewer than 100 members) Category to LWVSB. Gloria Anderson, Betsy Starbuck, and Jill Vassilakos-Long accepted the award on behalf of the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area.*

The presentation was for  
“Special Recognition to the San Bernardino Area LWV for Strengthening Democracy in 2016-2017 for creating strategic partnerships and exhibiting strong power in advocacy and diligence, resulting in the passage of Measure L - Yes on New San Bernardino Charter.”

Gloria pointed out that the League had been working towards Charter reform for many years, at least five previous attempts were made. Kudos to those who worked on the Charter campaign!

### Slate of Officers Approved at the Annual Meeting:

#### Co-Presidents:

- Betsy Starbuck (2017-19)
- Jill Vassilakos-Long (2017-19)

#### Secretary:

- Barbara McGee (2017-19)

#### Directors:

- James Albert (2017-19)
- Michael Segura (2017-19)
- Miriam Nieto (2016-18)
- Susan Longville (2016-18)
- Barbara Sokoloff (2016-18)
- Nancy White (2016-18)

### Board Appointments

#### Web-Master:

- Scott Starbuck (2017-19)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

For the first time in many years Gloria Anderson was not part of the slate. She has been the guiding force for our League for a long time. She wanted to devote some of her time to other things at this point, and we were not sure how to tell her how much we appreciated her energy, determination to see our League succeed, and the sheer organizational skills that have kept our League going.

We made secret arrangements for Carolyn de Llamas to be part of our celebration. Carolyn and Gloria have been friends for decades. They worked together as League Advisors for many years, and then, after Gloria took leadership of our League, Carolyn served as our League's Advisor. Carolyn was happy to help, and so we had her make the "thank you" presentation to Gloria.



The plaque read:

*The League of Women Voters honors Gloria Anderson for her many years of leadership and service.*

*Her unselfish and dedicated commitment to the mission of the League and citizens of the area will long be remembered and gratefully appreciated.*

*Presented at the Annual Meeting June 10, 2017.*

Past SB League President Marion Vassilakos told us that long ago, our League often celebrated with the coffee cake from Noyes bakery. We called Noyes, and they agreed to make us a sheet cake.

San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis celebrated with us! He was our speaker for our Annual Meeting. His message outlined some of the areas in which the city of San Bernardino has made progress in the last few years.

One of these areas was helping the homeless population of the City of San Bernardino. The city has developed programs to "help people find their way back home." The efforts have been remarkably successful. In 2013 the homeless population of the City of San Bernardino was 908, the total for San Bernardino County was 2,321. In 2017 the homeless population of the City of San Bernardino was 491, the total for San Bernardino County was 1,866. (In 2017 the City of San Bernardino has 417 fewer homeless persons than it had in 2013. San Bernardino County has 455 fewer homeless persons than it had in 2013.)

A question was asked about the homeless population near Pioneer Memorial Cemetery. The Mayor will address the problem.

You can see our local positions on the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area website. (Find it by searching in Google.) One change was suggested at the meeting - that we incorporate the concept of "transparency" into our City Charter position. There was some discussion of whether or not transparency is implied in the current wording. Membership voted to have the Board examine the question and add wording on transparency if it is not already part of the position.

There was some discussion of rank choice voting. In  
*President's message continued on p. 4*

## LWVSB INTERVIEW WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER ELOISE REYES

This year the League's interviews focused on higher education, water, and funding the administration of local elections. Gloria Anderson and Miriam Nieto interviewed Assemblymember Eloise Reyes.

Q1: What legislative measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?

Assemblymember Reyes' main concern is low voter turnout and lack of information on judges. The lack of information discourages voters from voting on judges. She will work with the League to help educate voters and increase voter turnout.

Q2: How can California meet the challenge of enrolling more students, including students with greater needs, at the UC and CSU? Is more state funding needed? Where does this issue rank in your legislative priorities?

This is a high priority for Assemblymember Reyes. She was very sympathetic and helpful to our new Membership Chair, Miriam Nieto. Miriam is a recent UCR graduate who ran up considerable debt, and is now hoping to go to graduate school. Reyes said she may offer a bill to give credit for those who volunteer, but the funding picture is complicated by the recent discoveries in the UC system budget. She would support having the first two years be tuition-free, but again, funding is the problem. Outreach funding was cut in favor of affirmative action, so that is another problem that is not likely to be easily solved.

Q3: What kinds of legislative proposals would you support to ensure that enough water of adequate quality is available for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, and the environment in the face of over-stretched surface water and groundwater resources and climate conditions different than those California experienced in the last century?

Water has not been an area of interest for Assemblymember Reyes, but she is trying to learn about it. She says that conservation should be continued. She wants to know about the League's water position, and we also mentioned the Water Education Foundation as a source of knowledge about water.

*Assemblymember Reyes article continued on p. 5*

## YOUR MONEY - WHO IS IT WORKING FOR?

LWV's vision is to empower citizens to shape communities worldwide. It's the ultimate mindset of "thinking globally and acting locally." There's been a longheld debate as to whether multinational banks are a sustainable investment for individual consumers and communities.

In the last decade, we have witnessed the greed and recklessness of the Big Banks as they wreak havoc on our country's economy and finance human rights travesties, many involving our indigenous and immigrant populations.

The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) construction focused the world's attention on environmental justice and the ongoing mistreatment of indigenous communities throughout the country. As a result, many consumers have been looking past the ballot box to effect change.

JPMorgan Chase finances a loan (via Energy Transfer Partners) to DAPL. Major financiers of the loan include: Citibank, TD Securities, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, and Mizuho Bank.

Many consumers searched for viable, sustainable alternatives for their bank and savings accounts and have moved to credit unions. Credit unions are not-for-profit organizations that exist to serve their members. Like banks, credit unions accept deposits, make loans and provide a wide array of other financial services. But as member-owned and cooperative institutions, credit unions provide a safe place to save and borrow at reasonable rates. Credit unions are owned and controlled by members who use their services. Your vote counts. A volunteer board of directors is elected by members to manage a credit union.

Credit unions operate to promote the well-being of their members. The profits that are made are returned to members in the form of reduced fees, higher savings rates, and lower loan rates.

Members often have shared interests and appreciate participating in an institution designed to help others. They may provide financial education and outreach to consumers; in-school credit Union branches, and support small business needs.

The cooperative structure of credit unions creates a cycle of mutual assistance towards the common goal of the financial well-being of members, for example, one member's savings become another member's loan.

Please consider researching this issue for yourself and contemplate transferring your account to a sustainable alternative that empowers you and your neighborhood.

*-James Albert*

## AUGUST 19 : SUPPORT MEDICARE, MEDICAID. AND SOCIAL SECURITY

You are invited to the Birthday Party for Medicare/ Medicaid and Social Security on August 19, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the Woman's Club of San Bernardino at 503 W 31st Street. We have been strong advocates for these programs that are aging like some of us and we need to celebrate to tell its successful story.

We know Social Security's 82 years old and Medicare is 52 years. We know that there has been expansion not only to retired workers but also to injured, disabled and children. We know at present there are many ideas calling for changes in program and finances. We see pictures of persons rallying, arrested, and talking with their representatives in the news, on TV and Cable at both national and state levels. Our state has been promoting Medicare for All and the Single Payer proposal (SB 562) has been put on hold in the Assembly Rules Committee. I am calling on our league members to hold up a candle or be a human cake holding a cupcake. Join this fun eventful party to celebrate Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid and promote our voice.

As you know, I participate with LWV San Gabriel's active Health Care for All Committee and locally with CARA California Alliance for Retired Americans and California Partnership, a broad coalition organization. CARA in July and August is sponsoring several birthday parties but none in our area. So at June's CARA meeting speaking out for our area, I got assigned to

### President's Message Continued

rank choice voting systems, people rank their choices, 1 for their first choice, 2 for their second choice, etc. Then the votes are counted. In the first round, everyone's first choice is counted. The candidate or position with the lowest number of votes is dropped, and all the ballots that ranked that candidate first are moved to whatever each ballot lists as the second choice. This process is repeated until one candidate reaches 50% +1. The benefit of this system is that people can vote their hearts for their first choice, without worrying that they are "throwing their vote away."

Membership voted that the Board appoint a committee to study the use of Rank Choice voting and present their findings along with a recommendation on whether or not we should add it to our City Council position.

For the coming year, membership voted that we accept

make it happen here in San Bernardino area.

I want to celebrate and protect these programs for our future generations. How they benefit me is ordinary compared to some of the other stories I have heard. Born just a few years after Social Security passed in 1935, over my lifetime I am fortunate that Congress expanded coverage. In my case, my husband died and as a single mother with two young children to raise, his Social Security was very helpful to maintain a stable home and supplement my income.

I am pension retired and had the required quarters for minimum Social Security from prior jobs. So now my pension and Social Security let me live a quality lifestyle. Still to continue it needs to keep up with the increase cost of living.

What is your story? Mark your August calendar for August 19th and Come to the Party! Need helpers to hand out candles, mini cup cakes, happy birthday cards to their representatives and available voter registration forms, greeters, etc etc etc. available . . . . . we all know the drill! Shirley Harlan 909 882 4057 vldy@aol.com

P.S. The event will be taped so event has future value for organizations and individuals to share.

---Shirley Harlan

the local program and place an emphasis on civic education in schools and civic engagement in communities.

It was brought up that the bank that LWVSB uses right now (J.P. Morgan Chase) has invested in the Dakota Access Pipeline. Membership discussed the possibility of changing banks, maybe going with a local financial institution. James Albert volunteered to explore our options and report out to the Board who will include the information in a review of where the League is doing business.

Many thanks to Susan Nieblas for her excellent minutes!

-Jill Vassilakos-Long



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

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**League of Women Voters:  
Making democracy work!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

AUGUST 15, 22, 29 10:15 am: (Tuesdays) Voter Registration Training  
777 E. Rialto Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92415 (We are working on offering this on a Saturday.)

AUGUST 19, 9:30 am: Medicare & Social Security Event: Woman's Club of San Bernardino at 503 W 31st Street

AUGUST 26: Women's Equality Day

SEPTEMBER: Voter Registration Month

SEPTEMBER 4: Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 9: LWVSB Board Meeting, 9:30-12 Garcia Arts Center

SEPTEMBER 26: National Voter Registration Day

**A PARTY IN SEARCH OF A HOME**

On the afternoon of December 2, 2017 the League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area will hold a holiday party! Board members and others will bring food and drink - but where? If you can give this party a home, please call or email Jill Vassilakos-Long ([jvlong@csusb.edu](mailto:jvlong@csusb.edu)) (909)649-1310).

**Volunteer to Register Local Voters!**

The League of Women Voters of the San Bernardino Area is a part of a new coalition that is focused on increasing civic participation and community involvement. We are planning a Non-partisan voter registration campaign for all San Bernardino High Schools and Colleges. It will take place this fall. Participating organizations in this coalition include San Bernardino Generation Now, Inland Congregations United for Change, Alpha Alliance, Associated Student Government of San Bernardino Valley College, and the League of United Latin American Citizens Inland Empire, California Partnership and the Sierra Club. Working together we believe we can increase voter turnout in our city and get more youth involved in our organizations.

We are currently organizing the schedule and volunteer list for the Fall Voter Registration in the San Bernardino Schools. If you are interested in volunteering on behalf of the League or need more information please email me, Michael Segura at: [Msegura909@gmail.com](mailto:Msegura909@gmail.com)

*Michael Segura, Voter Registration Chair*

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER REYES (continued)**

Q4: We told Assemblymember Reyes about civic engagement workshops that are being done in San Bernardino by community groups. She supports that. We will keep LWVC posted about the progress of the effort.

Q5: What other major issues do you think the Legislature must address in 2017? What are your priorities?

Assemblymember Reyes says her main priority is fighting for the community. She was disappointed in her effort to get worker's compensation for county employees affected by the terror attack. Her bill was gutted, but she says she will continue to fight for them and for others in the community.

Gloria added: I am acquainted with Eloise, so she gave us a very warm reception, and we had a pleasant interview with her. She said she is joining, but I don't know if she actually has. She is very supportive of our efforts, and in sync with us on many of our issues. A connection that goes back to 1982 is when she was one of our Citizens of Achievement because of the pro bono work she did as a fledgling lawyer. She has a very busy schedule, so we weren't able to meet with her until the end of April, but I hope that what we learned will be useful. She should be easy to work with.

*-Gloria Anderson and Miriam Nieto*