

# The Voter

League of Women Voters,  
Long Beach Area

Serving the Cities of Long  
Beach, Lakewood, and Signal Hill

April 2017

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## Calendar of Events

### Sat., Apr. 1 - Board Meeting

1 - 2:30 pm; Ella Mae Marble's home

### Sun., Apr. 15 - LWVLBA Member Meeting

Join us at the home of Lisa Swanson for good food and conversation and learn about opportunities for you to become more involved with the League!

## President's Message

*by Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, President*

These are very exciting times for the League of Women Voters. Leagues across the nation are seeing significant gains in membership and an upwelling of interest in the League's advocacy and education work. We have in Chris Carson, President, LWVUS, a leader who has taken a very visible and vocal stand on several key LWV issues, such as the protection of voters' rights, money in politics, climate change, and health care. I find this new, assertive voice both refreshing and motivating. If you are on Facebook or Twitter I encourage you to follow the LWVUS - it's a great way to keep up with LWV issues and activities.

Closer to home, the LWV Los Angeles County is presenting a leadership workshop on April 22, "Next Level Communications." The workshop will be facilitated by Sarah Diefendorf (LWVC) who is an international capacity and leadership trainer for the League. It has never been more important that we as League members learn how to effectively spread our message across the broadest spectrum of the public possible. The workshop will teach participants how to move people to action, and to improve their outreach and presentation skills. It should be a fun and exciting day. Please see the calendar section for details or feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

In April we will be gathering at Lisa Swanson's home for a potluck lunch and conversation. We have not previously held many social events, but I think it's important that we have these gatherings so we can all get to know one another better. The opportunity for unstructured conversation is, I think, essential to generating new ideas and to mentor the next generation of League leadership. Please see the calendar for details.

**Time:** 12:00 to 2:00 pm  
**Location:** 4415 Olive Ave., Long Beach 90807

For more info: Kim [562-548-4010](tel:562-548-4010)

**Sat., Apr. 22 - LWV Los Angeles County Leadership Training Workshop - Next Level Communications**

9:30 am - 4 pm; UTLA Headquarters (3303 Wilshire Blvd., 8th Fl., Los Angeles 90010)  
 (See [attached flier](#) for details.)

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### Board of Directors

**President:**

[Kimberly Ritter-Martinez](#)

**1st VP, Program:**

[Lois Ledger](#)

**2nd VP, Voter Service:**

[Renee Simon](#)

**3rd VP, Action:**

[Janeice McConnell](#)

**Secretary:**

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**Treasurer:**

[Phyllis O'Connor](#)

**Arrangements:** [Kay](#)

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**Membership:**

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**Natural Resources:**

[Rebecca Hanbidge](#)

and [Kathleen Wills](#)

**Publicity:**

[Adah Perez](#)

**Social Policy:**

[Kiara Khalid](#)

**Voter Editor:**

[Nicole Bennett](#)

**Directors at Large:**

[Jane Adair](#), [Estelle Byrnes](#)

**Telephone Tree:**

Ella Mae Marble

our annual meeting we will be holding elections for several board positions that have opened up including President, Membership, Treasurer, Publicity, *Voter* Editor and Natural Resources. If you are interested and/or have questions about the responsibilities and time commitment of a particular position, please contact me. If you have not previously served on the board or are new to the League, don't let that stop you! Most of us don't start out as experts. You will find a supportive and encouraging environment that welcomes the unique talents of all our members. There are also opportunities to co-chair with someone to divide up the work of a position.

Finally, I want to thank Lucille Zmudzinski for serving as our Nominations Committee chairperson for *many, many* years but has now stepped down. Lucille has been a member of the LWVLBA for over 50 years and has served the League in numerous capacities. Lucille, you are an inspiration to us all.

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## Solicitation Drive Update

*by Phyllis O'Connor, Treasurer*

Thanks so much to the early-bird donors who responded so generously to our annual request for funding! They are: Jane Adair, Marianne Appel, Beverly August, Sally Bates, C. J. Crockett, Diane Eilers, Cheryl Epstein, Marcia Gordon, Mary McAuliffe, Phyllis O'Connor, Kim Ritter, Anne Ryder, Mary Jane and Ron Salk, Barbara and Leon Shoag, Renee Simon, Audrey Hyde Zahler, and Lucille Zmudzinski. We would love to hear from many more of you, if you're in a position to contribute to the League. If you've lost the contribution slip and envelope, just send your check, payable to League of Women Voters of Long Beach Area, to LB Treasurer, 180 Nieto Ave., LB 90803. It's tax deductible!!

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## Votes for Women: Suffrage and Activism

*by Phyllis O'Connor, Treasurer*

In March, LWVLBA was invited to join with CSULB's Department of History to celebrate Women's History Month in a presentation to students and guests. The program opened with a short documentary film on the extraordinary career of Inez Milholland, the iconic woman in white on the white horse who inspired thousands of women at the march for women's suffrage before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. The producer, Zoe

**Local Study Committee:**[Renee Simon](#)**Nominations:**[Lucille Zmudzinski](#)**Smart Voter Coordinator:**[Phyllis O'Connor](#)**Speakers' Bureau:**[Thelma Teitel](#)**Webmaster:**[Maggie Lundy](#)**Archivist:**[Kim Ritter](#)

own long and intense involvement in the politics of equality. A panel discussion followed, touching on the history of women's struggle for equality at the ballot box and in all aspects of civic life, and the challenges still facing women today. Panelists included Dr. Sarah Schranck, CSULB History Professor, Brianna Nelloms, CSULB History Master's Student, and Phyllis O'Connor of the Long Beach League. Panelists briefly discussed the issues, then responded to questions from the audience, who were left with the message that, while much has been accomplished in the nearly 100 years since women gained the right to vote, much remains to be done.

**Internet Resources**[Voter's Edge](#)

LWV California Ed Fund provides information about statewide propositions, local candidates and issues, media links and background materials

[LA County Registrar-Recorder](#)

Election calendar, polling places, absentee voting information, multilingual voting materials

[Easy Voter Guide](#)

Concise faces about statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean Spanish, Vietnamese, English

[Secretary of State](#)

Official text of ballot measures, candidates' statements, maps, dates, election returns

[CA Legislative Analyst](#)

Analysis of all ballot measures

[CA Voter Foundation](#)

Voter resource for information on voting and elections

## Report from the Committee on Homelessness

*by Phyllis O'Connor, Treasurer*

At its meeting on March 30, the Long Beach Planning Commission heard testimony and audience comments on an agenda item to approve a conditional use permit for a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center at 3200 Long Beach Boulevard, and then unanimously approved it. This will be one of seven such facilities in LA County, and would be eligible, under recent state legislation, to receive patients in severe mental health crisis instead of having them taken by the police or ambulance to hospital emergency rooms. This will mean a vast improvement for those suffering mental health emergencies and their families. It is estimated that about 10% of the patients would be homeless, but it is that segment of the homeless population which is most difficult for local agencies to help, precisely because of the lack of appropriate facilities for immediate professional intervention.

## Future of California Elections 2017 Conference

*by Phyllis O'Connor, Treasurer*

This meeting in early March at the California Endowment addressed many aspects of the challenges facing those responsible for modernizing California elections and expanding voter participation. Secretary of State Alex Padilla spoke of the many improvements to the voting experience already accomplished or well under way, such as legislation providing automatic voter registration for anyone who applies for a Driver's License, more choices on how to vote (SB 450), same day registration, and extension of the deadline for

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your  
membership  
today!

## About the League

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

## Opportunities for Service

Write an article, a Letter to the Editor or a book review for *The Voter*. Time commitment: low.

Contact: [Nicole Bennett](#)

Volunteer to join the Board.

Time commitment: moderate.

Open positions: Natural

Resources. Contact: [Kim Ritter](#)

Volunteer to serve as an

Observer at City Council

meetings, or at other meetings

since he under attack through voter suppression laws and allegations of voter fraud. He emphasized that civil liberty and safety are not mutually exclusive.

The all-day session included panels of election officials from Southern California and other experts, looking back over the 2016 election cycle and forward to the upcoming improvements such as the expanded adoption of voting centers and trends in vote by mail. The panels addressed a wide range of topics, including voting accessibility, diversity outreach, preregistering youth, and communicating election information with the help of NGOs.

For more information, see <http://www.futureofcaelections.org>.

## Women of Distinction Awards to Current and Former LWVLBA Presidents

*by Phyllis O'Connor, Treasurer*

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell presented his annual awards on March 23 to Long Beach area women "who have made the world a better place." The Woman of the Year award went to Martha Beatriz Cota, founding director of Latinos in Action for "her dedication to building a stronger, healthier Long Beach." Among the 22 other women honored for exemplary service, outstanding achievements, and ability to inspire positive change were our current LWVLBA President, Kimberly Ritter, and former President Carol Churchill. Congratulations, Kim and Carol!



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO

**Elizabeth "Liz" McDargh**  
National Vice President & President, Local 1450

2201 N. Lakewood Blvd #D1886, Long Beach, CA 90815  
NFFE1450@yahoo.com Cell: (562) 505-5511 Fax: (515) 717-9701 www.nffe1450.com  
Representing HUD employees in the CAN (California, Arizona & Nevada) States!

Contact: [Phyllis O'Connor](#)

Volunteer to serve on a planning committee for a monthly meeting. Time commitment: variable.

Contact: [Kim Ritter](#)

Join a Committee: Voter Service (Renee Simon); Membership ([Ron Salk](#)); Speakers Bureau (Thelma Teitel); Committee on Homelessness ([Phyllis O'Connor](#)).



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