***Message from Co-presidents’***

**Looking Forward to the Coming Year**

Elizabeth and Sandra have both taken time off to rest and vacation away from home in August. Now, we are energized and looking forward to the coming year.

Last month, several letters to editors were mailed by us to local newspapers, one to celebrate the anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act and a second to support the Voting Rights Act, in full.

Here is an excerpt from the letter to the editor of the *Daily News*:

*Between 1982 and 2006, Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act helped the U.S. Department of Justice block over 700 racially discriminatory voting measures. This is the section that was invalidated by the Supreme Court last June. The negative affects of that decision are already being felt through the passage of measures that will harm the poor, the young, and the elderly, as well as racial minorities.*

Sandra attended the Valley and Las Virgenes units “Welcome Back Luncheon” and told the gathering which positions we plan to advocate on in the coming year. She further said that as professional women and men, it is fulfilling for us to use our skills doing the important work of the League and to be given opportunities to learn new skills.

After attending the Annenberg Retreat on the importance of fundraising, we are looking at the different ways we raise funds, with the goal of developing new ideas on how to grow our finances.

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**Host a Civic Society Salon!**

Civic Society co-chairs, Renee Chanon and Carryl Carter, are looking for potential civic society salon hosts. Salons are usually attended by 30 to 40 guests. A host must have a home large enough to accommodate this number of guests.

The salons are unique and intimate gatherings with speakers, who are experts in their field, sharing their insight on current events and hot button issues.

Please contact Raquel in the office at 213-368-1616 or email her at ed@lwvlosangeles.org to offer your home for consideration.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is open to men and women of all ages. We invite your membership. Visit www.LWVlosangeles.org to join.
The moderator, Steve Weiss, motivated us and focused us on the areas where there is room for improvement.

We have authorized a Financial Management Review of our records in the office. The team includes Tom Carson, former LWVC treasurer and Dorothy Stewart, the LA County League’s treasurer. They soon will be meeting with Raquel to review our financial procedures.
**Welcome New Member Tania Bradkin!**

Tania is a single mother and when she’s not with her 11 year old twins, she can be found volunteering at homeless organizations such as Step Up on Second and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH).

Tania has a deep interest in helping remedy homelessness as well as focusing on the needs of our Veterans, seniors, women, children, families, animals, and education in the state of California. She is most excited about helping to bring the first of its kind in the country, permanent housing for homeless female Veteran mothers with children, named Mullen House, to Los Angeles.

Tania attended the University of Pennsylvania. Tania was recently appointed to the Commission on Social Services, for the City of Santa Monica. Tania is the field deputy for City of Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz for the South Robertson, Palms, Beverlywood and Mar Vista regions.

She enjoys writing, photography, running and tennis in her spare time.

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**Know of Prospective Education Fund Board Members?**

Additionally, the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles Education Fund is looking for representatives in the information technology (IT) industry to serve on its board.

If you know anyone connected to Yahoo, Google, Apple, or any of the major tech companies, please contact Raquel at the LWVLA office at 213-368-1616 or email to ED@lwvlosangeles.org.

-Renee Chanon & Caryl Carter, LWVLA Ed Fund Directors

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**What Is Program?**

I’m very excited about writing my first VOTER article and I thought I’d begin with a few words on **What is Program?**

**Program is where most of the League’s work is born.** Program is the bridge between **Study and Action.** Program is the process that begins when League members identify public policy topics that are of concern to the community.

Every year in January members are invited to participate in Program Planning Day where members bring their ideas to this League-wide meeting. The program committee then helps window down the selected topics based on interest, expertise of the members and the immediacy of the topic. Next the list is reviewed and approved by the LWVLA board. Program then organizes subcommittees that take the lead on a **Study**, which in turn generates a report and develops questions for a **Consensus.** The **Consensus** is conducted and includes all League members. After a **Consensus** is reached, a position is adopted by LWVLA, which leads to **Action and Advocacy** and consequently the Leagues participation in public affairs. This is a similar process that occurs at all League levels. LWVLA works simultaneously on local, county, state, and national program issues.

LVWLA program has the additional responsibility of developing topics for unit meetings as well as organizing public forums for the civic education for the community at large. This work is accomplished by the hard work of program subcommittees with full committee oversight and board approval. The **Program Committee** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

-Maria Montero, Chair
Program Committee, LWVLA
Regional Discussion Meetings
Guest Speakers from Insure the Uninsured Project

The Program Committee has invited speakers from Insure the Uninsured Project to speak at our October Regional Valley and Westside meetings. Founded in 1996 to advance health reform discussions in California, their experts will provide an overview of how health coverage will change in California under health reform. Their mission is to identify, assist and promote new approaches to expand health care and coverage for California’s uninsured.

Kwon Yoo, Policy Director of Insure the Uninsured, will speak at the Westside meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at the Palms Rancho Public Library, 2920 Overland Ave., Los Angeles 90064 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Lucien Wulsin Jr., Executive Director and Founder of Insure the Uninsured, will be the featured speaker at the San Fernando Valley meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2013, at the Platt Library, 23600 Victory Blvd., Woodland Hills 91367 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 pm.

Come join us and bring your neighbors and friends to either (or both) of these informational community meetings.

-Cecilia Schlesinger & Jean Thomson
LWVLA

Gun Safety Sponsors a Teach-In

The recently formed gun safety committee is sponsoring a “Teach-In” at the Women Against Gun Violence headquarters in Culver City. The “Teach-In” will be to inform us of the basic background of state and local gun laws, so we can be effective advocates for gun safety.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The WAGV office is at the Helms Bakery building at the corner of Venice Blvd. and Helms Ave., 8800 Venice Blvd. #304, Los Angeles 90034.

The speaker will be a member of the LAPD Gun Unit who will provide an overview of local and state gun laws. Pending state legislation will be discussed.

Please RSVP to 310-204-2348 or gun safety@LWVlosangeles.org before Monday, September 16, as space is limited.

-Sandra Trutt,
Gun Safety Committee
United States- LWVUS

Its summer time and the living is anything but easy in Washington. Not only is it hot, but while the pace has slowed a bit, the LWVUS continues to work in coalition with national partners to analyze the recent Supreme Court ruling which gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA). Charting a path to restoring the VRA to full effectiveness will involve work at both the federal and state level. We are looking at a variety of solutions with an eye to insuring that any action we take is effective and politically viable. But while we continue to explore specific solutions, there is important work to do now to build support for repairing the VRA and to block anti-voter initiatives in the states.

This week, hearings were held in Congress on the VRA. The League has called on them to move swiftly to restore the VRA. Please consider writing to newspaper editors to call on Congress to respond to the Court’s devastating decision and restore the VRA. As you submit the letter to newspapers in your state, consider partnering with another organization in your community or possibly a Member of Congress if that might help get the letter published. Remind the media of the upcoming 48th anniversary of the VRA on August 6, 2013 as an additional news hook.

Before the ink was even dry on the Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder decision, several states such as South Carolina and Texas, rushed to implement racially discriminatory anti-voter laws. We expect that this is only the beginning, which is why it is important that the League keeps fighting in the states.

While we recognize that summer is a time when many of us take some much deserved time off, it is critical that we remain vigilant and that we get out the word about what we are seeing in our states as a result of the Court’s decision. For our part, as we have additional information and materials, we will include them in this Update, as well as through action alerts, and other communications from the national office.

-Elisabeth MacNamara,
LWVUS President

State- LWVC

California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning
The California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning was established by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. I, as the President of the League of Women Voters of California, serve on the task force as part of a sub-committee to create a blueprint to address curriculum, instruction, and resources. We’d like local League members involved throughout the process. Learn more by visiting: http://www.myboe.org/go/group/name/CivicLearningTaskforce

LWVUS Council Report
Frankly, this was the least productive LWVUS Council, but that may be because I’ve found the other three I’ve attended to be so outstanding. I definitely recommend attending, largely because of the face-to-face time with national board, staff, and leaders from other states. California typically sends the President and one other representative. It is held in DC in May of odd-numbered years for state League leadership. You can view the materials, including a recorded webinar, in these posts on the LWVUS site about "Council 2013".

Attending two demonstrations of the potential new database, advocacy and communications systems was informative. Significant change is happening not only for LWVUS technology, but also in staffing, who they’re seeking for the board, and most importantly: in their strategy for doing the League’s work. Improving trust and collaboration between levels of League is a top priority! California is collaborating to support these efforts. We will be sharing more details in the coming months. For now, make sure you and your members are signed up for communications from LWVUS and can log into the members only web site.

-Jennifer Waggoner,
LWVC President
County- LWV/LAC

Wow! We had a great Summer League Day in Pasadena. We were concerned two weeks before the event with only 15 registrants. But we ended up with 84 attendees. Evaluation forms showed high ratings for the day. People liked their workshops, thought lunch was tasty – including the traditional popovers, of course - and very much enjoyed our speaker. Thanks to our excellent workshop presenters: Sally Seven, Joanne Leavitt and Barbara Inatsugu, Linda Herman and Pat Kromka, and Fatima Malik and Jack Sullivan. And special thanks to Smart Voter Director, Ernie Ting for coming down from northern California to speak on the SV Next Gen. Of course, thanks to Dr. Raphael Sonenshein for an informative and entertaining presentation. And thanks to all who attended to make the day fulfilling.

Local Leagues are now planning for the coming year. We have local elections coming up. Some Leagues will face several races. There is also the LWVUS Agriculture Study and the LWVC study on Higher Education – a bit farther down the road. Keep checking the national and state websites for information on these studies.

We all will be tracking the way in which the new school-funding scheme – LCFF/Local Control Funding Formula – affects our schools in LA County. Another area of concern is the way in which the federal directive to reduce the number of inmates in state prisons impacts the County jail system. And we will also be looking at the way in which the Affordable Care Act is implemented in California. These are serious and heavy issues for LA County.

I want to invite anyone who is interested in working on the County level to consider taking a position either on the County League board or off-board. The County board needs help tracking issues and welcomes new participants. Contact me if you are interested or want more information.

-Nancy Mahr,
LWV/LAC President

IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!

The new term begins on September 1 for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Last year, we saw a %100 increase in member’s who signed up to contribute to the League. Thank you!

Participants will be required to register or re-register for the new term at www.ralphs.com or by using the scanbar letter at the register starting September 1, 2013.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com
2. Click on ‘Create an Account’
3. Follow the 5 easy steps to create an online account
4. You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account
5. After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link in your email, return to www.ralphs.com and click on ‘my account’ (you may have to sign in again first).
6. View all your information and edit as necessary
7. Link your card to your organization by clicking on:
   a. Community Rewards
   b. Edit my community contribution and follow the instructions
   c. Remember to click on the circle to the left of your organizations’ name.
Louise Ronne
A Fond Remembrance

Louise Ronne, teacher, explorer, reader, traveler, and good citizen, was a League member for nearly 40 years, passed away peacefully June 17, survived by her daughter Nancy Ronne, her four grandchildren and a great granddaughter. She and her husband built their own home in Canoga Park and supervised one of the moves of the League office. When Renee Chanon was president, she remembers rewarding Louise for her organizational talents by being given the supervision of handling the very large VOTER mailing in the new office.

A very active and reliable League member, she always volunteered where needed. For years she served on the board of directors, and as the West Valley unit chair. She frequently worked on the resource committees, was always a greeter, all around enthusiastic League recruiter and promoter.

At 95, she had a very full life beyond her commitment to League with a comparable dedicated participation in her church, belonging to the Women’s Federation and the board of trustees, the minister search committee, writing newsletters, handling rummage sales and worked on homelessness in the community. She and her husband also helped repair the church building! And in her spare time she was traveling around the world and had a passion for gardening, art work, writing poems.

We will miss her cheerful presence in our League.

-Jean Thomson, LWVLA
MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

It’s easy to join the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

NAME ________________________________ E-MAIL ______________________________

ADDRESS __________________________ CITY ___________________ ST _____ ZIP ______

PHONE (H)___________________________ (W)________________________ (C)____________

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Scan the code to join online!

☐ I am paying my dues by check: Amount: ____________ Please make payable to: League of Women Voters of Los Angeles

To pay by credit card: please go to www.LWVlosangeles.org and click “Join the League”

☐ I’d like to do more: Here is an additional gift and separate check to support the League’s activities for:

☐ General Fund $___________ (Payable to LWVLA)

☐ Education Fund $_________ (Payable to LWVLA Ed Fund)

Contributions, gifts and dues to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible; they support our member based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Contributions to the LWVLA Education Fund are tax deductible and support the League’s voter information and education efforts.

*Associate: A person under 18 years old or a non-citizen who may fully participate in the League as a member except in organization elections.