

# Capo Bay Area LWV Voter

Editor: Ann Worthington

Date: April 15, 2015

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, April 16** from 3:00-5:00 pm, General Meeting at the home of Marilyn O'Brien. Meeting and Presentation on Earthquakes by Dr. Lucy Jones, a highly respected Earthquake Authority. 31111 Madera, San Juan Capistrano. See Article.

**Thursday, April 23** from 3:00-5:00 pm, Book Club at the home of Patty Curto. The book is "At Home" by Bill Brison.

**Saturday, May 2** from 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Clip and Come at Fiano's restaurant in San Juan Capistrano.

**Wednesday, May 6** from 1:00-3:00 pm, Board Meeting at the home of Petti Van Rekom.

**Friday-Sunday, May 15-17**, League State Convention in San Diego.

**Thursday, May 28** from 3:00-5:00 pm, Book Club TBD.

**Saturday, June 6** from 10:00 am -2:00pm, Capo Annual Meeting at Gemmell's Restaurant, Dana Point Harbor. Lunch \$30. See Article for details.

**Saturday, June 20**, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm, ILO (county-wide League) Annual Convention at Gemmell's restaurant in Dana Point. Lunch \$30 per person. More details TBA.

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"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

## President's Message

### Diversity in changing Orange County

Everywhere I go here in San Clemente, I see very little diversity (except for gardeners, house cleaners, and retail clerks). Even our League meetings lack diversity.

Our March program on immigration issues in Orange County was well-attended. But as usual, there was little diversity in the audience. We heard about the challenges for Hispanics (legal and undocumented) here in OC. The audience asked many questions of our two speakers. Attendees were given a copy of the report "Orange County on the Cusp of Change" prepared by the UCI Community & Labor Project and the UCLA Labor Center. You can get a copy at the website: <http://labor.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/07/FINAL-OC-report-for-Web.pdf>

Another recent report, the 2015 South Orange County Economic Report, has plenty of data on our changing county. While south OC is overwhelming white (65.7%), this percentage is decreasing while the Hispanic and Asian groups are increasing. The largest white community is Laguna Beach (90.86%) and our Capistrano cities are not far behind: about 86% for San Clemente and Dana Point, and 77% for San Juan Capistrano.

The report also shows that our population is getting older. Persons 65-74 years old have increased over 23%. Part of the reason, they suppose, is that the cost to live here is too high for young families. There's a lot more in this report. If you're interested you can find it at this website: [http://www.saddleback.edu/uploads/bsed/bm/south\\_oc\\_economic\\_report\\_2015\\_2.pdf](http://www.saddleback.edu/uploads/bsed/bm/south_oc_economic_report_2015_2.pdf)

The lack of diversity in south Orange County is a result of what has been called “The Big Sort.” This term comes from a book of the same name (subtitle: Why clustering of like-minded America is tearing us apart). The book discusses the ways citizens have demographically rearranged themselves into discrete enclaves. In the “Big Sort,” by journalist Bill Bishop, new demographic data is used to show how Americans have been sorting themselves into extremely homogeneous communities. It points out that we have been choosing the neighborhoods, news shows, organizations (League?), and places of worship that most closely reflect our individual values. As people in like-minded communities grow more extreme and firm in their beliefs, we are left with a country of neighborhoods and towns that are so polarized, so ideologically inbred, that people don't know and can't understand those who live just a few miles away.

I read this book a few months back and it really increased my awareness of the bubble we're living in. In my community association of about 250 homes, I don't believe there is a Black, Hispanic, or Asian family! We are such a collegial, homogeneous group in a very safe area, so I don't understand this ethnic isolation. I for one would like more diversity.

While I'd like my community, and the local organizations I belong to, to be more diverse, I'm at a loss as to what to do. But at least my awareness antenna is up. I'll watch for opportunities, and I hope you will too.

--Petti Van Rekom

## **Earthquake Advice and Safety**

Our **April 16th meeting** will open your eyes to the dangers of earthquakes. Come, view, and listen to a film as Dr. Lucy Jones addresses the OC Municipal Water District (last month). After the film we will discuss what we can do.

Dr. Jones believes that if we are prepared, we can be ready when the big one hits. She is a Science advisor for L.A., graduate of Brown Univ., in

Chinese Literature, has a Ph.D from MIT, Magna Cum Laude from Cal Tech, and is a professional Viola player. She believes it is her job to translate scientific information from all over the world to help people understand our earth better, and to give advice about EARTHQUAKES.

Our local Director of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, Susan Hinman, believes Dr. Jones can help all of us understand the essentials in the event of a major earthquake in our area.

**Date: Thursday, April 16th**

**Time: 3-5 p.m.**

**Place: Home of Marilyn O'Brien**

**PLEASE CALL MARILYN TO LET HER KNOW YOU'RE COMING SO SHE CAN HAVE ENOUGH CHAIRS SET UP:  
949-496-1858**

--Marilyn O'Brien

## **Annual Meeting for our League**

Every year we plan an annual meeting that promises to give you food for thought. This year on **June 6th**, at Gemmell's Restaurant in the Dana Point Harbor, we will have a speaker on Human Trafficking. We are pleased to have someone from I SANCTUARY who will give us information on what Orange County is doing to prevent this horrendous act from continuing. You will also learn about League's future and what happened at the State Convention.

Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and plan to attend. A check for the luncheon, including coffee and dessert, in the amount of \$30 should be mailed to Lori Johnson no later than June 3rd (2840 Calle Heraldo, SC 92673).

Menu choices are (includes soup or baby green salad):

1. Chicken Marsala
  2. Poached Salmon
  3. Angel hair pasta with tomato, basil, and garlic
- PLEASE indicate your menu choice on your check.

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## Should Our League Stop Being?

Our League's history serves as a reminder of what women can do in government. Our League has been a great source of information for those who want to learn and understand. Our League has been a great source for State and National issues, providing clout for the issues in which we believe. Our League has provided its members with programs that educate and inform. Our League has brought people together to listen and learn.

But, should our League stop being? The nomination committee, Ellen White, Gail Benda and Marilyn O'Brien called our members asking them to stand up and commit to being the president for the years 2015-2017, but no one said yes. We have good intelligent members, but no one wants this job. Our past presidents have worked hard and have done a great job, but they are ready to step down.

So, what should we do? We need someone with experience in League to come forward. Will this be you? We hope so. We need you! IF SOMEONE DOESN'T STEP FORWARD, THIS WILL BE THE END OF OUR LEAGUE.

--Marilyn, Ellen and Gail

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## Our Thoughts Go Out To:

- Hugh Nestor and family, on the death of Nina Nestor
- Ellen Ferguson, recuperating from a hip operation
- Diane Thomas, undergoing cancer treatment
- Loraine Walsh, recuperating from a fall

## Think Before You Ink!

Check that petition before you sign it.

If you've ever heard, "I don't agree with this, but I'll sign it so it gets included on the ballot and then voters can decide," Please, **NO, NO, NO, DON'T SIGN!**

This initiative season will find petitions in front of stores and at your door. Currently there is one so egregious that the State Attorney General is asking Congress for a special ruling so she can refuse its circulation!

Did you know that the number of signatures required to turn an idea into a ballot proposition is based on the number of votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election? Our last November election saw the lowest turnout in 100 years! Therefore it will only require 365,880 signatures for an initiative and 585,407 for a constitutional amendment. (The last election required 504,760 and 807,615 respectively.) A frighteningly small number for a state of 40 million residents!

Here's the LWV recommended "test" to decide if a petition should be signed:

1. **Who is behind it?** Who are the real sponsors and opponents of a petition drive?
2. **If it's an initiative amending the Constitution, does it belong there?** Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change?
3. **How will it be funded?** An "unfunded mandate" takes away funds from other essential programs.
4. **Is it too complex?** A complex issue needs to be thoroughly examined and debated in a legislative arena.
5. **Before you sign, ask to see the ID of the signature gatherer.** Are they a volunteer circulator or a paid circulator?

**YOUR SIGNATURE IS VERY VALUABLE.  
ONLY SIGN AN INITIATIVE PETITION  
THAT YOU BELIEVE BELONGS ON THE  
BALLOT.**

## **Board of Supervisors -- Meeting Notes**

By Wanda Shaffer

**NEW FACES!!** There are three new County Supervisors: Lisa Bartlett in District 5, Michelle Steel in District 2, and Andrew Do in District 1. This makes our county the first in the continental United States with an Asian American majority. This also means there are three new executive assistants. Plus, the “old pros” are Chairman Todd Spitzer and Supervisor Shawn Nelson. John Wayne Airport Director Alan Murphy, and County Clerk-Recorder Susan Novak have retired.

The Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as UBER and LYFT will soon be able to offer passenger pick-up to and from John Wayne Airport. Currently the taxi company has an exclusive contract for a parking spot at Terminal C. The taxi company pays \$800,000 annually for the license and has a contract from 2008 to 2015. The Supervisors pointed out that the TNCs could come to the curb and the taxis could not. They suggested that should be changed. It was also pointed out that the taxi companies are checked by the DMV, and must meet air emission regulations, pay for each deplaning passenger, and have drivers considered as employees. The TNCs do not have employees, they have “clients;” they could continually troll the airport and cause more traffic congestion. Our new acting airport director, Larry Serafino, stated that they could place a GEO fence around the airport to control that. However, the fence is still in the testing stage at the San Francisco Airport. The taxi company was urged to meet with the county to discuss how to make the addition of TNCs a fair proposition for them. The vote was 5-0.

The Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller, and Public Guardian departments requested funding for a number of executive assistants. Supervisor Nelson

stated that this was unwise and unnecessary as these departments do not deal with the public, as do some other departments. “This will lead to more on the ‘political level’ and not the ‘public service level,’” he said. Supervisor Do said he was uncomfortable telling elected officials how they can use their staff. (Do has hired onto his staff a former aide of Supervisor Pat Bates. This aide has been sanctioned for billing the county while he worked elsewhere.) After much discussion, the vote passed 3 -2, with Supervisors Nelson and Bartlett voting no.

The Sheriff-Coroner requested \$520,000 for continuous electronic monitoring equipment (ankle bracelets). She stated there have been very high failure rates of home detention monitoring for misdemeanor inmates. The cost for home detention is \$4 per day, vs. \$140 a day in jail. The vote was 4-1, Supervisor Spitzer voting no.

Did you know that you can read ALL of the Board of Supervisors’ topics and the voted decisions online? Go to [www.ocgov.com](http://www.ocgov.com) and click on Agencies and Departments, then Board of Supervisors, “Agenda and Meeting Information.”

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“Being adequately informed is a democratic duty, just as the vote is a democratic right. A misinformed electorate, voting without knowledge, is not a true democracy.”

--Jay Griffiths

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“I believe that voting is the first act of building a community as well as building a country.”

--John Ensign

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## Use Your Cell Phone to Advocate

By Sue Guilford

Add your elected representatives to your cell phone! I made a group “Elected Reps” on my phone (many phones, not just smartphones, allow you to create groups) that includes our two senators, congressperson, State senator, State assemblyman, and county supervisor. It is helpful to have multiple phone numbers where possible, especially for the three who have offices in Washington D.C. as well as California.

You don’t have to make a pest of yourself, but having those numbers at hand makes it so much easier to make a quick call, whether to lobby or to say “thank you” for a vote or position. I also note (you might need a smartphone to do this part) each of their elected positions (U.S. Senator, House, State Assembly, State Senate, Board of Supervisors, school board, city council), date elected, and district or area number.

Don’t forget: If you are calling about a League position, say so!

## League of Women Voters of California Joins Action to Include Voter Registration with Driver’s License

Citing clear evidence that the State of California is violating its federally-mandated responsibility to offer California drivers and ID card holders the opportunity to register to vote, attorneys from Demos, Project Vote, ACLU Foundation of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the global law firm Morrison & Foerster, sent a pre-litigation notice letter to the California Secretary of State on behalf of the League of Women Voters of California, ACCE Institute, California Common

Cause, the National Council of La Raza, and several individual California citizens.

“It’s time for the Department of Motor Vehicles to stop dragging its feet and make voter registration easy and accessible for the millions of Californians who apply for or renew their driver’s licenses or ID cards every year,” said Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

Under the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”), California and most other U.S. states are required to treat a driver’s license application or renewal as a voter registration application if the applicant chooses to register to vote. If the applicant is already a registered voter, the State must update the existing voter registration with any new information supplied on a driver’s license application, renewal, or change of address form. Such new information might be a name change, address change, or new political party affiliation.

In the letter, the voting rights groups advised that they are ready to work with California officials to modify the State’s procedures to provide the voter registration opportunities required by federal law. If the State fails to respond or take steps to comply with the law within 90 days of receiving the letter, the groups and the individual citizens have said they will bring a lawsuit to make sure the State fulfills its obligations.

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“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

--Franklin D. Roosevelt