



League of Women Voters of Torrance Area
Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

LWVTA Voter

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>
 Tel. 310-618-8711

March 2010

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Torrance Area, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Inside this Issue:

Local Action News	1-4
Health Care Update	2
Education Report	2
Tri-League Supper	4
LWVLAC News	5
LWVCalifornia News	6
LWVUS News	7
Calendar	8
Contacts	8

The *LWVTA Voter* is published monthly except July and December. All LWVTA members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the *LWVTA Voter*. Articles must be nonpartisan and are subject to editing. Email submissions to wuertzvoter@earthlink.net before the first weekend of each month. The editor is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information reported.

Editor: LaVonne Wuertz

President's Message

The last month has been exciting and busy. Councilwoman Julie Ruiz Rabner and her husband attended our Chocolate Sunday program. She presented LWVTA with a Proclamation congratulating us on our 90th Birthday and praising us for our voter activities. We also participated in the Daily Breeze's "Girl Talk" distributing membership information and talking about the League. I did not see an estimate of how many attended, but I would guess a couple of thousand.

March will be another busy month. LWVTA, Beach Cities, and Palos Verdes Peninsula will be presenting the annual Tri-League Lasagna Dinner March 18 at 6 pm. Join us at the Katy Geissert Torrance Civic Center Library for a delicious dinner and to hear Dowell Myers from the USC School of Policy Planning and Development speak on Education in California. For more information, see the announcement on page 4.

LWVTA will again be one of the sponsors of the Visions of Unity Arts Contest for which Torrance students create original artwork, essays, stories and poetry. The awards reception is March 22 at the Torrance Memorial Health Center.

Also do plan to attend the LWVLA County Convention on March 27. (See the announcement on page 5.)

Last but not least, there will be an Environmental Fair on March 27 at Madrona Marsh with a large number of groups participating.

--Linda Brown & Lola Ungar, Co-Presidents

City of Carson Honors LWV on 90th Birthday

By Barbara Barker

Chocolate Sunday was a gastronomical feast and a wonderful opportunity to visit with other members and guests. Linda Brown's charming home was the gathering place.



Councilwoman Julie Ruiz-Raber (Pictured above on the left with co-presidents, Lola Ungar and Linda Brown.) presented a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Carson to honor the LWV on its 90th Birthday.

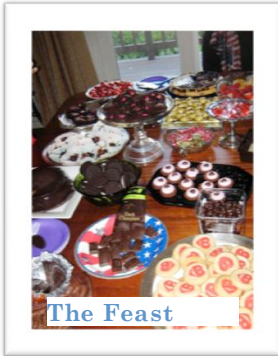


(Continued on page 2)

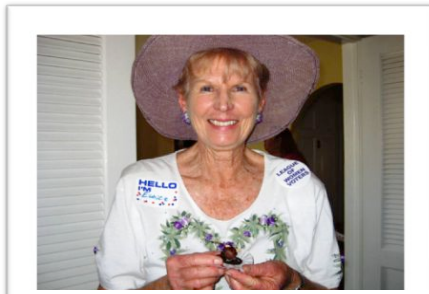
League of Women Voters of Torrance Area News

90th Birthday *(Cont'd)*

We were also joined by Torrance Councilmen Tom Brewer, Cliff Numark and Bill Sutherland, as well as City Clerk Sue Herbers. The City of Torrance will be presenting a Proclamation to the League of Women Voters at its March 9th Meeting.



The Feast



Eunice Hargrove's chocolate mice were a big hit.

LWVTA Joins in the Fun at South Bay Girl Talk Event

By Barbara Barker

On Saturday, February 6, the League set up a booth at the Marriott Hotel as part of the South Bay Girl Talk Event. Hundreds of women and girls, and a few men, enjoyed the opportunity to run complimentary medical tests, watch a fashion show and peruse the booths of local vendors and service organizations. Many stopped by the LWVTA booth to chat and to pick up flyers and membership forms.



Thanks to Jamie Watson, Helen Nowatka, Barbara Barker, Dee Hardison, Briana Krank, Kay White and Linda Brown for helping to spread the word about the values of the LWVTA.



Board of Directors 2009-10

President of Record: Lola Ungar*
Co-President: Linda Brown
1st Vice President: Pat Kromka*
2nd Vice President:
Secretary: Kay White*
Treasurer: Sandra Strong*

Directors

Advocacy: Lola Ungar
Communications: Sydne Morrison
Education/Social Policy: Gerry Rische
Government/Elections:
Membership: Linda Brown
Natural Resources: Andrea Wagner
Public Relations: Lola Ungar
Speakers Bureau/Pros & Cons: Emma Simmons
Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz*
Voter Service/Smart Voter:: Pat Kromka

Off-Board Portfolios

Children & Family Issues: Sandra Strong
Coastal Issues: Andrea Wagner
Education/Social Policy: Tom Rische
Energy: Andrea Wagner
Financial Development: Sandra Strong
Health Care: Barbara Barker
Land Use: Lola Ungar
Mental Health: Carol Adams Smith
Open Government: Dee Hardison
Public Libraries: Judi Gerber
Water and Agriculture: Judi Gerber
Webmaster: Barbara Barker

Committees

Budget: Dorothy Stewart
Executive: Noted by asterisks
Nominating: Celeste Bailey

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown

*Welcome new members
Suzanne Distaso
Lenora Ingram
And
Sue Martin*

League of Women Voters of Torrance Area News (cont'd)

Health Update

By Barbara Barker

There has been no new action related to Senate Bill 810 (Leno-S.F.), a bill that guarantees affordable health insurance for all residents of California. In the coming weeks we will know when the bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Health Committee, before being sent to the Appropriations Committee. It must pass Appropriations by August 13. Finally, it must pass the full Assembly by August 31 at which time the bill is sent to the Governor.

The LWVTA Board has been asked to endorse a Resolution formulated by LWV members who belong to the nationwide group called Health Care Reform 4 US. This resolution is being circulated nationally in an effort to take it to the LWVUS Convention in June for adoption by the delegates. The wording is:

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of the United States believes quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents; and

Whereas the current and proposed systems benefit the health insurance industry and do not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas an improved Medicare for All, or publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan, is consistent with this goal;

Therefore, be it resolved, we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for All.

As the LWV Board directs, we will be sending out Action Alerts to members. Generally these ask that you take a few minutes of your time to call your Senator/Assembly Member to thank them for supporting or to seek their support of passage of SB810. As the LWVUS Board determines its position on national bills, we will also relay the action alerts.

Education Report

By Tom and Gerry Rische

Budget cuts have devastated many district budgets. Torrance will have to cut more from its budget next year.

Teachers' salaries in California vary widely, depending on state funding formulas:

Factoids about teachers' salaries as of 2009

Compiled from

www.sacbee.com/1098/story/995141.html?appSession=3...

Salary Ranges

	\$
Torrance	41,479-82,472
Los Angeles	39,788-78,906
Redondo Beach	47,290-84,914
Statewide, low	30,586 (Konocti)- 61,184 (Mt. View)
Statewide, high	61,184(Mt. View)- 116,871 (Laguna Beach)

NOTE: Dr. Tom Rische retired at the top of Torrance's salary schedule in 1985, which then was \$39,000.

Average Salaries

	\$
Torrance	64,554 (up 1,000 from 2008)
Los Angeles	66,435 (up 3,000 from 2008)
Redondo Beach	69,301 (up 600 from 2008)
Konocti	49,753
Mt. View-Los Altos	95,365

Average Daily Attendance, Students

Torrance	24,183
Los Angeles	598,145
Redondo Beach	7,984

Teachers, Including Full-Time Equivalent

Torrance	1,077 (up 28 from 2008)
Los Angeles	33,166 (down 3,400 from 08)
Redondo Beach	410 (up 19 from 2008)
Laguna Beach	145
Konocti	169

Students Per Teacher, Extrapolated

Torrance	22.5
Los Angeles	18.0
Redondo Beach	19.5

League of Women Voters of Torrance Area News (cont'd)

CALIFORNIA ON THE BRINK

GUEST SPEAKER

DOWELL MYERS

USC School of Policy, Planning and Development

SPONSORED BY THE TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES – PALOS VERDES – TORRANCE

20TH ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER

**KATY GEISSERT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM**

3301 TORRANCE BLVD., TORRANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010

SUPPER (\$10.00) 6:00 P.M. PROGRAM 7:00 P.M.

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND SEND WITH TEAR-OFF
BY MARCH 11, 2010

Tri-League Lasagna Supper Reservation

Send to: Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th Street, Manhattan Bch. 90266 Ph: 310-545-1087

Number of reservations _____ \$10.00 per person – check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

League _____

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

48th Annual Convention

Luncheon

Saturday, March 27, 2010

9:15 AM – 2:00 PM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS



Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has represented the nearly 2.3 million people of the Second District on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors since December 2008. During his first year in office, he shepherded through an agreement with the University of California to provide medical services at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital which is scheduled to open in late 2012. He also persuaded the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to fund a light rail system from Crenshaw Boulevard to Los Angeles International Airport and move up the opening from 2029 to as early as 2016. Together, the hospital and rail projects will generate more than \$2 billion in spending and create over 16,000 jobs.

Carson Community Center
801 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

Convention kits for delegates will be mailed to local League Presidents by the end of February. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Scissors icon and dashed line

Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League Name _____

Please highlight delegates names with a (D).

Names _____

Deadline is March 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 = Total \$ _____

If Postmarked After March 16th

Reservations # _____ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ _____

Chicken Entrees # _____ Vegetarian Entrees # _____ Note Food Allergies _____

League of Women Voters of California News

Looking Ahead to the June Election

LWVC's positions on the propositions...

SUPPORT PROPOSITION 15: California Fair Elections Act

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access and shutting out the rest of us. Proposition 15 takes an important step toward getting politicians out of the fundraising game. It is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates. Proposition 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interest, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors.

OPPOSE PROPOSITION 16: New Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers

Proposition 16 would amend the state Constitution to require a city or special district that provides electricity to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before expanding its service territory or providing new service to its customers if public funds are involved. Two-thirds approval by the voters would also be required for a local government to buy power at wholesale prices to sell to residents through a Community Choice Aggregation program. The LWVC opposes this supermajority vote requirement that would allow a minority to prevent decisions on electric supply favored by a majority of the people to be served. PG&E, the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.

PROPOSITION 13: Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Seismic Retrofitting

The League generally supports regular, frequent reappraisals for property tax purposes, and this measure excludes certain construction from reappraisal. However, considering the public safety benefit of encouraging seismic retrofits, we remain neutral on this proposal.

PROPOSITION 14: Top-Two Candidate Open Primary

PROPOSITION 17: Auto Insurance Pricing

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 14 and 17, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

[Source: LWVC website]



Registration deadline to vote in the June 8 statewide election is May 24.



Every car counts!

**Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV
or boat to the League of Women Voters.**

Call 800 320.0476

**League of Women Voters of California Education
Fund**

We'll pick it up. You'll support the League,
get a tax deduction
and avoid the headache of disposing of an unwanted
vehicle.

About Us

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voters' service and civic education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters of Torrance Area, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation.

League of Women Voters of the United States News

A Summary of Member Input for 2010 Advocacy Priorities

Each January, the LWV Board of Directors adopts Priorities for Advocacy for the calendar year. Priorities are established in order to assure the best use of LWV resources. Consideration must be given to issues that are likely to be addressed by the Congress. Among these considerations are: member interest; the political climate for action on a specific issue; the resources that are available; opportunities for successful advocacy; and, whether the LWV is the organization that can make a difference.

LWV members responded to the request for recommendations for LWV Advocacy Priorities for 2010 following several announcements in the Leaders' Update beginning in early December, 2009 through January 15, 2010. The following is a list of the input received from members in descending order:

1. Campaign Finance Reform – many of these suggestions were in support of the Fair Elections Now Act (HR 1826 and S 752)
2. Global Climate Change
3. Health Care Reform
4. Arms Control
5. Immigration Reform
6. Election Reform, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Abolition of the Electoral College, Concerns about how the Congress conducts itself (rules, earmarks, cloture), Civil Liberties, Redistricting, Census 2010
7. Specific suggestions to support HR 2766 and S 1215, legislation that would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing and other purposes
8. DC Voting Rights and Budget Autonomy
9. Gun Control
10. Miscellaneous suggestions: Year Round School, Abolition of the Death Penalty, ERA, Veterans' Assistance, Civic Education, Affordable Rental Housing

These suggestions were received from individual members, LWV Boards, and committees who held

meetings to discuss Advocacy Priorities. All suggestions were tallied for the report to the LWV Board of Directors.

[Source: LWVUS website, For Members section]

From elsewhere on the LWVUS website: Nearly 100 members and Leagues took the opportunity to register their suggestions. Of the 100, fourteen Leagues discussed the issues among themselves and submitted their suggestions based on the group's conclusions.

President Urges Quick Action

President Mary G. Wilson, testifying February 3 before the Committee on House Administration on "Defining the Future of Campaign Financing in an Age of Supreme Court Activism," urged that Congress act swiftly (before the 2010 elections) to send to President Obama "legislation governing corporate and union spending" on elections.

JOIN THE LEAGUE Yes! I want to make a difference!

I want to make a difference in the decisions that affect my life. I know every new member makes the League more effective in influencing public policy on issues I care about.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Day) _____

(Evening) _____

Email: _____

Individual \$60

Household \$90

Student \$30

Please make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Torrance Area

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Torrance Area
Post Office Box 964, Torrance, CA 90508

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Keep up to date with important League of Women Voters communications. Check out national, state and county issues on-line at:

National: www.lwv.org

State: ca.lwv.org

County: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org

Torrance: <http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

2010 Calendar

Mar. 4, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Mar. 18, 6-9 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Supper, Katy Geissert Library meeting Room, Torrance Civic Center
Mar. 22, 6:30 pm	Visions of Unity, Torrance Memorial Health Center
Mar. 27, 9:30-2 pm	LWV/LA County Convention, Carson Community Center
Mar. 27, 10-3 pm	Torrance Environmental Fair, Madrona Marsh
Apr. 1, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Apr. 19, time tba	Torrance Candidates Forum, Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room
Apr. 24, 9:30-Noon	County Ballot Briefing, Hollenbeck Palms

For protection of privacy, when sending emails that include anyone outside this membership, please address the names on the Blind CC (BCC) line so that the addresses do not show.

Board Meetings are open to all members and held on the first Thursday of each Month except May.



League of Women Voters of Torrance Area

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested
Time Dated