



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

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>
new number: Tel. 310-223-6897

LWVTA Voter

November/December 2010

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters 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.

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The **LWVTAVoter** is published monthly except July and December. All LWVTA members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the **LWVTAVoter**. Articles must be nonpartisan and are subject to editing. Email submissions to lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com before the 15th of each month. The editor is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information reported.

Editor: Geneva Martin

President's Message

If you missed our winning "Women in Public Service," event at the Nakano Theater October 21st don't worry because a cameraman from Citi-Cable filmed the event. The fundraiser at the Nakano Theater included an unbeatable cast featuring Former Mayor Dee Hardison, Councilmember Susan Rhilinger, City of Torrance Prosecutor Della Thompson Bell, and Torrance Police Sergeant Jennifer Uyeda with our own Athena Paquette Cormier as the moderator of the event. Among the subjects addressed by the distinguished panel were recollections about their early childhood and how they became directed towards their careers in public service, who mentored them, and what they foresee in the future for young people in the field of public service.

League members Councilman Pat Furey and his wife, Terry, who were in attendance said that it was a great event and that we should have DVD's made and distribute them to high school teachers in the City of Torrance. We will notify you when Citi-Cable will be broadcasting the event and whether we can link the program to our own LWV Torrance Area website so that you can see it, too, if you miss the broadcast.

On October 25, Raquel Beltran, Executive Director of LWV Los Angeles and I spoke before the **L.A. County Commission for Women**. I told them about the history of the League of Women Voters, the Los Angeles County League, the Torrance Area League, who we are, what we do, and our successes, while Raquel spoke about the importance of voting in the November election.

On **Saturday**, November 20 - 9:30-2 p.m. Jail Study Committee members and those who are interested should attend the **LWV/LA County Jail Study Preparation/Training** at Taix Restaurant, LA. Our special guest will be Deputy District Attorney Beatriz Dieringer who will talk about how cases are expedited through the court system. If you want to go, get your registration in ASAP as seating is limited. See flier attached.

Congratulations to our board member Athena for being named Sports Woman of the Year by the Daily Breeze!

And, finally, be sure to take a breather on the long Thanksgiving Day weekend and enjoy the warmth of family and friends.



Lola Ungar

Los Angeles County Jail Study By Shirley Spencer, LWVPasadena



Los Angeles Twin Towers Correctional Facility
<http://www.lasdhq.org/divisions/custody/twintowers/tt1.jpg>

Interested in law enforcement issues? Ever wonder what would happen if you or a loved one were stopped, arrested, and transported to a jail without your purse, car, or cell phone? Save Saturday, November 20 for a learning opportunity.

The Los Angeles County Jail Study has had a slow and uncertain journey but it has arrived thanks to Co-Chairs Betsey Coffman (Claremont League), and Vi Iungerich (Palos Verdes League), with consensus to be reached by May 1, 2011 from the eleven Leagues of Los Angeles County.

At the July 31st County League's Annual Popovers in Pasadena, the workshop on the County Jail Study was well attended. This is the first time that LWV has studied the Los Angeles County Jail system.

The Jail Study co-chairs related that there were no standards for custodial release from the station jails, that the preferred release time was midnight to 3:00 a.m., and that the culture of the jails assumes guilt if arrested. The lack of humanity or compassion was noted. This may explain how a jailer could remark that we "are not a babysitting service" when challenged about releasing a mentally ill young woman into the very dark night from the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station at 12:38 a.m. on September 17, 2009. Mitrice Richardson had no money, no transportation (her car was towed and stored), no cell phone, and she was wearing only a t-shirt, jeans, and tennis shoes. The skeletal remains of that young woman were discovered by accident 11 months later in a ravine of Dark Canyon near Monte Nido neighborhood about eight miles from the Sheriff's Malibu/Lost Hills Station. Lawsuits are pending.

Some basic information: The LA County Sheriff Department headed by Sheriff Baca is the law enforcement agency for: 40 contract cities, 90 unincorporated communities, 9 community colleges, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and 47 Superior Courts. The Los Angeles County Jails include 8 facilities, 7 jails processing 17,000-20,000 inmates daily.

The County Board of Supervisors has the ultimate responsibility for the jails, as they control the budget. The total budget for the Sheriff's Department is \$2.25 BILLION. Los Angeles County, with a huge land area and a population close to ten million, has the largest county jail system in the United States.

Thanks to the following members and friends who donated to the LWVTAED Fund at the October 21 Women in

Government event:

Linda Brown
Mary Lou Busch
Athena & Tom Cormier
Suzie Distaso
Dee Hardison
Pat Kromka
Geneva Martin
Sue Martin
Georgia Perkins
Gerry Rische
Lola Ungar
Kay White
Bertie Wood

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*2nd Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin**
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Executive: Noted by asterisks
Nominating: Barbara Barker

Facebook: Emma Simmons
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LWV/LA County

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

JAIL STUDY PREPARATION/TRAINING



LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BEATRIZ DIERINGER

TAIX RESTAURANT
1911 W. SUNSET BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
TEL. 213-484-1265

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM

Note: \$2.50 valet fee, carpooling recommended.

Study Presentation for Unit and Consensus training for
Local League Jail Study Committees and all interested Leaguers
Betsey Coffman and Vi lungerich



Please send form and check payable to LWV/LAC
Mail to Georganne Thomsen, 1259 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Postmarked by Nov. 8, 2010 Postmarked *AFTER* Nov. 8, 2010
Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 Reservations # _____ @ \$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

Chicken Luncheon # _____ Vegetarian Luncheon # _____ W/O NUTS or other allergens # _____
(name food)



About the League

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.

 **LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
TORRANCE AREA**

Cordially invites you to a

HOLIDAY



Thursday, December 2, 2010

6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING

Join the Festivities!

There will be a very short
Board Meeting

Local & State
Program Planning

Should we Reexamine the LWV
Initiative Process?

What about Reexamining

Existing Torrance Area Programs (in your Roster)
or a New Torrance Area Study?

*You will be contacted
or RSVP to the new League Phone
310-223-6897*

*You can choose to bring
Drinks, Entrée, Vegetables,
Fruit, or Dessert*



*At Lola Ungar's Home
3903 Bluff Street
Torrance, 90505*

310-375-7410/cell 310-408-1870

Carpooling Recommended





DESAL Demonstration Facility Go-See Tour

"Desal," abbreviation of "desalinization" - Removing salt from something or in this case, the process of removing salt from sea water to make it drinkable.

Saturday, December 11, 2010

10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Families and children over 7 are invited



Reservations are limited so please

**R.S.V.P. to Kay White 310-373-1901
or kaywhite645@peoplepc.com**

Deadline is December 6, 2010

The tour is sponsored by the LWV Torrance Area and will begin at the **Sealab Facility's** Demonstration Facility located at 1021 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

Parking is directly across the street at the AES power plant parking lot.

The tour will take about an hour and a half and will include a walk through of the West Basin Water Education display, a short presentation about our future water supplies, and a tour of the plant with the opportunity to drink the desalted ocean water.

Sealab Facility, 1021 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach

Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste the right way on Saturday:

DECEMBER 11, 2010

BUSINESS WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

What you CAN bring to an event (examples):

- Brakes fluid, paint, paint thinner, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides or herbicides, household batteries and car batteries, pool chemicals, motor oil, oil filters, expired pharmaceuticals, anti-freeze, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Household electronic waste which includes: Computer monitors, televisions, computer CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, etc.

What you CANNOT bring to an event:

- Hazardous waste and electronic waste from businesses.
- Explosives, ammunition and radioactive materials.
- Trash and tires.
- White goods such as refrigerators, stoves and washing machines, etc.
- Controlled substances.

How to prepare items for transportation:

- Bring the items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Do not mix the items together.
- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.
- Be prepared to leave your containers and boxes. Remove all other items from your trunk.

For a complete listing of what you can and cannot bring or information on upcoming events, contact: 1(800) CLEAN-LA + www.CleanLA.com, or 1(800) 239-0172 + www.lansd.org.



Brought to you by the County of Los Angeles and presented by the Department of Public Works and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County in cooperation with the cities of Carson, Gardena, Lomita, Los Angeles, Palms, Palms Estates, Rancho Palms Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, and Torrance.

Home-generated sharps waste such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and intravenous needles **SHOULD NOT** be placed in your trash. Bring them to the Roundup or visit www.CLEANLA.com for alternate disposal options.

You can also take your used motor oil to more than 600 oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. Call 1(800) CLEAN-LA for a complete listing.



Printed on recycled paper.

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH



Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup

Saturday, December 11, 2010
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Lomita City Hall
Parking Lot
24300 Narbonne Avenue
Lomita

Open to all Los Angeles County residents

Education Report By Tom Rische

Response of Torrance Superintendent George Mannon to questions about local schools this month:

1. How much relief will \$10.6 million in money received recently actually provide?

If the State funds are "real", it will allow the District to avoid the 2012-13 deficit, which would require additional reductions of over 200 employees.

2. What difference will the election of a new Superintendent of Instruction actually make for Torrance and other cities? What can he actually do?

The newly-elected State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, has the power of persuasion to effect the public perception of education. The position has supervisory authority and can initiate new rules and regulations through the State Board of Education.

3. How's Hull School work coming?

Hull is on time, expected to open Sept. 1, 2011.

4. Are there any new district rules in the wake of the North High explosion?

We are working with the Torrance Fire Department develop new guidelines on students cooking.

5. Any other thoughts?

We are in a wait-and-see period of time as to whether or not the recently approved state budget will hold up or whether K-12 will have mid-year funding reductions.

From recent *Daily Breeze* accounts of School Board meetings by Rob Kuznia:

Funds raised by parents at individual schools can be used to hire additional teachers or other personnel at those schools, the Board decided by 4-1 vote. It was noted that more affluent schools, such as Riviera (4% school lunches) might be able to raise more than poorer schools such as Carr (50%).

Thanks to a federal jobs bill, the Torrance Unified School District will rehire 31 of the 54 teachers laid off after last school year.

The teachers will be hired as early as this current school year and as late as next fall, and will stay through the 2011-12 school year. After that, though, the rehired teachers could be laid off again.

The school board hopes to have \$10 million from the state, but much of the new money is a one-time shot in the arm, and the district's annual budget has shrunk in five years by \$40 million, to about \$160 million.

Meanwhile, the fundraising drive, known as the Save Our Schools campaign, generated \$300,000. The board on Monday night decided to divvy it up evenly across all schools based on a \$12-per-student formula.

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Be a part of an organization where smart, active leaders create lasting change in their communities.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email(s): _____

Check here if you want to begin or continue to receive your VOTER (newsletter) by E-MAIL. (*E-mail saves us printing and postage expenses*).

Dues paid to **LWVTA** automatically include membership at the national, state and county levels.

Please check membership category:

INDIVIDUAL DUES \$70

HOUSEHOLD DUES \$105

STUDENT DUES \$ 35

CONTRIBUTION TO LWVTA

\$ _____ (*Dues + contribution are not tax deductible*). Please send form and check payable to **LWVTA**

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO **LWVTA – EdFund - separate check**

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK(S)

\$ _____

Mail to **LWVTA**, P. O. Box 964, Torrance, CA 90508

Calendar

Thursday, November 11- **Veterans' Day**

Thursday, November 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - **TUSD Middle School Leadership Conference**, Torrance Cultural Arts Center

Saturday, November 20, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - **LWV/LACounty Jail Study Preparation/Training** for committee members, w/speaker Deputy District Attorney Beatriz Dieringer at Taix Restaurant, LA

Thursday, November 25 - **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Thursday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. – **Potluck and Local & State Program Planning** meeting at the home of Lola Ungar (Start reading the current positions that we have studied in the past in your 2010-2011 ROSTER, pps. 23-27 and the LWVC positions at www.ca.lwv.org).

Saturday, Dec. 11 - 10 a.m. - noon – **Desal Demonstration Facility Go-See Tour**, Redondo Beach

Saturday, Dec 11 - 10 9 a.m. -3 p.m. **Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup** at Lomita City Hall Parking Lot

Thursday, January 6, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting** (Call for location)

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
Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org/>
California: <http://ca.lwv.org/>
California Education Fund: www.cavotes.org
Los Angeles County: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org
Torrance Area: <http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>

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 Torrance Area

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested

Time Dated