



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

LWVTA *Voter*

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

March 2011

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 **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 lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com before the 25th of each month. The editor is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information reported.
 Editor: Geneva Martin

President’s Message

Another year has passed and the League is now celebrating 91 years of playing an active role in educating the citizens of the United States about our Nation’s democratic system and the candidates who run for elected office. In 1911, women were given the right to vote in California but it took the 19th Amendment (1920) for women to vote in a national election.

Sunshine Week — And, it is particularly meaningful at our birthday time that during the week of March 13-19, the League and journalists everywhere celebrate the birthday of President James Madison and call it “Sunshine Week,” a national initiative to promote the importance of open government and freedom of information. As we read news stories about the beleaguered unions nationwide and the cities of Bell and Vernon locally, we encourage you to attend a local government meeting or visit the websites of our Torrance Area cities (Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita, or Torrance) to learn more about what our local governments are doing. As members of the League of Women Voters, we are continuously answering Madison’s call to action: We are working to keep our community fair, vibrant and strong—starting with having an open and transparent government.

Carson Candidates Forum— On February 26, our skilled Voter Service Director Pat Kromka organized the Carson City Council & Treasurer Candidates Forum at CSU Dominguez Hills with the help of David Gamboa, Community and Government Relations Director. We are especially thankful to Nancy Mahr, LWV/LACounty President, who was the moderator of the forum. In addition, many of our members came forward and helped. Please give a round of applause to members: Mary Lou Busch, Athena Paquette Cormier, Geneva Martin, Emma Simmons, Marty Ungar, Jamie Watson, and Kay White; along with a special thank you to Athena’s husband, Tom Cormier. We are looking forward to holding other events at CSUDH in the future because we were so pleased with the lecture hall and parking that were so conducive to League-like proceedings.

Incidentally, Pat works with www.smartvoter.org and persistently encourages all local government candidates to post their qualifications and background information on the LWV website. Be sure to check the information periodically.

(Continued on Page 2)

(President's Message continued from Page 1)

County Jail Study - Plan on attending the County Jail Study Unit Meeting 2 & Consensus on April 9th at 3 p.m. at my home.

County Convention - Coming up very soon is the LWV/LACounty's 49th Annual Convention and you are cordially invited to hear Santos H. Kreimann, Director of L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors talk to us on the topic "Is Privatization a Useful Tool?" on Saturday, March 26, 9:00 to 12:00 Noon, at Recreation Park Golf Course in Long Beach. Privatization has become a national concern and is the transfer of any government function to the private sector, i.e., libraries, law enforcement, prisons, etc. At this time a national Privatization study is being prepared by a LWVUS committee for local leagues to take part in the near future. We have the opportunity for 2 more delegates (paid by LWVTA). Call me if you plan to attend. See the flier enclosed.

LWVTA Annual Meeting- Save the Date! On Saturday, April 30, we will hold our annual breakfast meeting at Marie Callender's Restaurant at Torrance and Hawthorne Blvds. Our keynote speaker will be Leroy Jackson, Torrance City Manager who will talk about the Pros & Cons of Privatization.

Sincerely, **Lola Ungar**

Education Report

By Tom Rische

Questions and answers from Dr. George Mannon, Torrance Superintendent:

1. *What's new on the Torrance Budget Scene lately?* Wait and see mode on what the State is going to do. If the Governor's proposed budget, including tax and fee extensions, is approved then TUSD will have a positive budget for the next three years. If the Governor's proposal for tax and fee extensions is not approved then we will have an estimated \$14 million deficit in 2013-14, which would need to address with drastic cuts.
2. *What happening on the school rehabilitation scene? Is Hull still proceeding*

- on schedule?* Hull is on schedule to open in September 2011. Walteria and South are still under construction. Seaside, Wood, Calle Mayor, Lynn, and Madrona are in the state, awaiting approvals. North will be submitted to state in August 2011. We are doing additional testing at Fern.
3. *What is the district doing for the Torrance Centennial Year starting this fall.* We do not have an exact plan at this time, but we will be working with the Committee on activities.
 4. *What do you think of recent articles about Torrance in the Breeze-- and the points being made there? (The ones about Magruder and Torrance achievements)* We gave the info to the Breeze, so at least it was accurate reporting.

Board of Directors 2010-11

*President: Lola Ungar**
*1st Vice President, Voter Service: Pat Kromka**
*2nd Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin**
*Secretary: Kay White**
*Treasurer: Sue Martin**

Directors

Natural Resources: Margaret Carter
Fundraising/Program: Athena Paquette Cormier
Communications: Sydne Morrison
Education/Social Policy: Gerry Rische

Off-Board Portfolios

Agriculture: Judith Gerber
Government: Dee Hardison
Health Care: Barbara Barker
Land Use: Lola Ungar
Libraries: Judith Gerber
Redistricting: Lola Ungar

Committees

Budget: Dick Smisek
County Jail Study: Lola Ungar & Emma Simmons
Executive: Noted by asterisks
Nominating: Barbara Barker

Facebook: Emma Simmons

Webmaster: Barbara Barker

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown & Sue Martin

Natural Resource Report Current water situation in Southern California By Margaret Carter

The snow pact was reported at 124% of normal. But, it is still clear that, no matter how much it rains, Southern California is still facing two serious threats to its water supply.

1. A 12 year drought continues on the Colorado River and the largest reservoir it feeds, Lake Meade, is still at record lows.
2. Concern over the habitat of the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta has led to court ordered limitations in how much water in Northern California can be pumped south.

So, in spite of the rains, water officials still continue to stress water conservations.

(Source: *Rainfall refuels dwindling water supplies*, http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_16940456)

After our visit to the desal plant at Sea Lab in Redondo Beach, we were impressed with the taste of the ocean water being desalinated/ produced there. However, we did not go into the take on all this from the Environmentalists:

1. One concern is that the brine could harm ocean life once it is released back into the water; **Answer:** More ocean water is taken than needed for the process, dilute what goes back to the ocean and put it in a pipe with holes on all sides, so water diffuses rather than a concentrated dump in one area
2. Another concern is that the plant will not be "green" enough, and that it will cost a lot of money. **Answer:** We use low energy membranes-reverse osmosis membranes-and that's "state of the art" for water purification. We'll use high efficiency pumps and, eventually, renewable energy.
3. There is concern about energy consumption. Some argue that there is still opportunity to expand recycling before jumping to desalination. **Answer:** The desalination plant is part of the **Water**

Reliability 2020 Program, which aims to reduce Southern California's dependency on imported water through redoubling recycling and conservation efforts, expanding education and utilizing desalination plants. (Source: *Desalination Plant Under Construction at Sea Lab*, <http://redondobeach.patch.com/articles/desalination-plant-under-construction-at-sea-lab>)

LWV Wisconsin

LEAGUE CALLS ON GROUPS TO CEASE CONFUSING ROBO-CALLS

The League of Women Voters has been notified of confusing robo-calls people have received in the Madison and Milwaukee areas that seem to indicate that the League supports Governor Walker's "budget repair" bill. Make no mistake, the League opposes this bill, based on long held positions including support of adequately funded government, accessibility of health care to all citizens and a belief that a bill that proposes to strip public employees of bargaining rights they have held for 50 years should not be fast tracked through the legislative process.

In Milwaukee there have been reports that recorded telephone messages have a male voice saying he is calling on behalf of the League of Women Voters. In Madison, the recorded calls are from the League of American Voters (LAV), a Washington-based group that has intervened in Wisconsin's politics before. The League of Women Voters in 2009 called on the LAV to "cease and desist" from using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League's in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform.

The League of Women Voters opposes the Governor's budget repair bill, and we call on individuals and organizations to stop attempting to confuse voters with deceptive mass communications.

Source: *press release LWV Wisconsin*
<http://www.lwvwi.org/>



LWV/LACounty

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® 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

49th Annual Convention

Saturday, March 26, 2011

9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Is Privatization a Useful Tool?



Santos H. Kreimann

Director of L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors

Recreation Park

Golf Course

5001 Deukmejian Drive

Long Beach, CA 90804

Phone: 562.494.5000

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.

Directions Heading 405 Southbound or 805 Southbound

Take 22 West/7th Street Exit, Turn Right On Park Ave., Turn Right On Deukmejian Drive, Continue Past Stop Sign into the Golf Course.

Directions Heading 405 Northbound, Take 22 West/7th Street Exit, Turn Right On Park Ave., Turn Right On Deukmejian Drive, Continue Past Stop Sign into the Golf Course.



Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC

Mail to Georganne Thomsen, 1259 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

League Name _____

Please highlight delegates names with a (D).

Name(s) _____

Deadline is March 18, 2011

Light Breakfast Reservations # _____ @ \$20.00 = Total \$ _____ Food Allergies # _____

If Postmarked After March 18th

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

LWVUS

Clean Air Act: A New Approach to Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions By Eleanor Revelle

With the demise of cap-and-trade legislation during the 2010 session of Congress, the climate action spotlight has shifted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act (CAA). But efforts are now underway to block EPA regulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes efforts to undermine the EPA's ability to establish the urgently needed clean air protections called for by the CAA. It's time for action -- time to reduce dangerous global warming pollution and safeguard "the public health and welfare of current and future generations."

For more details, see the Clean Air Defense section of the LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Action (www.lwv.org/climatechangetoolkit).

Source: LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

LWVTA News

Budget and Nominating Committee Reports were presented at the board meeting and will be included in the annual meeting kit.

The 65th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California will be Friday, May 13, through Sunday, May 15, 2011 at Crowne Plaza Ventura, 450 East Harbor Blvd., Ventura, California 93001.

A producer is still needed for the LWVTA video on women in Torrance that is being produced for the Torrance Centennial.

Hurray! Our very own Barbara Barker is a nominee for the State Board! See <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/voting/nominating-committee-report/>

LWV/LA County has lost their wonderful Gwen Cochran, Treasurer, who died in her sleep March 1st. Condolences to her family and to the the family of Mark Joseph LaBouff, son of longtime member Jackie LaBouff.

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.



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.

50% off

Join for year 10-11. Dues are now half off of amounts below.

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

Friday, March 18, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - **34th Annual EdSource Forum on California Education Policy - The Future for Public Education in California**, Hyatt Regency Irvine, Go to www.edsource.org to register, or call 650-917-9481

Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m.-noon - **County Convention**, Recreation Park Golf Course, Long Beach

Monday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. **Visions of Unity Event**, Torrance Memorial Medical Center Conference Hall

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

Saturday, April 9 3 p.m. - - **County Jail Study Unit Meeting 2 & Consensus** , home of Lola Ungar

Saturday, April 30 8:30 a.m. - **Annual Meeting** , Marie Callender's, 21211 Hawthorne Boulevard

Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting** (Call for location)

Friday-Sunday, May 13-15 - **65th State Convention** , Crown Plaza Ventura

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