



November 2008

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, 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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President's Message

My grandmother was a tiny lady who, at the age of 18, bought and ran a grocery business at the turn of the 20th Century in St. Joseph, Mo. She later married and gave birth to 15 children in her home. Grandma raised the children, managed the household, fed 30 hired men at harvest time and helped run the farm. When she talked about her life, her pride centered in her religious devotion, in that early business, in driving the first motor car in the town, and in voting in the first election that accepted votes from women and in every election thereafter until she died in her 100th year. She transmitted that dauntless spirit to more than 100 offspring. I believe that we and our children all go to the polls because she made this privilege important to us.

community fairs and we conducted two pros and cons meetings, speaking with over 100 people. We kept our website updated and Pat Kromka accomplished the difficult task of assisting every Gardena candidate in getting information on the Smart Voter website. We endorsed the local bond measures for the Torrance Unified School District.

In the process, we attracted new members. In January 2008, we had 73 members; today, we have 85! It was the excitement of this election along with the activity of our members that brought this increase into play. We are all delighted with revival of our League. Please plan to come to the Holiday Party on December 4th to meet our new members.

Barbara Barker

The *LWVT Voter* is published monthly except July and December. All LWVT members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the *LWVT 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

It always amazed me when I met people who did not value the act of casting their ballot. I didn't meet even one of those people this year. Over 4 million people were registered to vote in Los Angeles County by the deadline for the November election and over 82% of them went to the polls and cast their ballots! This election generated more engagement than we have seen in a long time.

I am proud to say that the LWVT was definitely part of the process. We handed out registration forms and talked with community members at Farmers' Markets and



League of Women Voters of Torrance News

Excerpts from Board Members' Monthly Reports

Natural Resources—Andrea Wagner

Agriculture: The California Legislature passed AB 2168, Farm to School, which allows farmers to sell produce to schools and other institutions without following the Standard Pack requirements. The bill authorizes “the adoption of regulations to encourage the direct sale by farmers to the public of all types of California agricultural products. The bill would also specify that the regulations may include provisions to ensure that selling activities are conducted without fraud, deception, or misrepresentation.”

Water:

- 1) The Environmental Priorities Network is holding a public forum to discuss the water crisis and to propose solutions on Friday, November 14, 2008, at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive in Rancho Palos Verdes (reception at 6, program at 7 PM.)
- 2) On October 30, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an initial allocation of 15 percent for water delivery to the State Water Project (SWP) contractors in 2009. The allocation is the second lowest in the history of the SWP. It reflects the low carryover storage levels in the state’s major reservoirs, ongoing drought conditions and court ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta.
- 3) On October 29, the DWR released a report urging California’s water managers to develop climate adaptation strategies. The report, *Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California’s Water*, details how climate change is already affecting the state’s water supplies and sets forth a number of recommendations to help avoid or reduce climate change impacts to water resources.

DWR’s report is the latest in the administration’s efforts to address climate change and will feed into the state’s overall climate adaptation strategy. The report follows on the heels of the Air Resources Board’s *Proposed Scoping Plan*, which contains water efficiency and conservation measures and is designed to mitigate climate change impacts by

Board of Directors 2008-09

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Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz*
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Off-Board Portfolios

Coastal Issues: Briana Krank
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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 (*)
Local Action: Gladys Meade
MGIK (Membership Initiative): Barbara Barker and Venora Lee
Nominating: Celeste Bailey

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown

reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020. To view the full text of *Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California’s Water*, visit <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/articles.cfm>.

(Cont’d on page 3, Reports)

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

Pros and Cons Meeting held at the Torrance Library

On Monday, October 27, LWVT offered information about the 12 ballot measures for the



November, 2008 election. Over 40 people gathered to listen to the pros and the cons of each measure and to ask questions. Voter Service Director Pat Kromka described the four Bond Measures and President Barbara Barker laid out the Initiatives and Constitutional Amendments. The same members had also presented the measures to the National Association of Insurance Women, South Bay Chapter, on October 14th.

This is one of the most important activities conducted by Leagues for the members and the community. Training is offered to members before each election so that they have material and information about each measure. This year, we had to say no to several organizations because only Pat Kromka and Barbara Barker had attended the training and their schedules could not accommodate all the requests.

LWVT welcomes new member

Susan Dever

LWVT Registration Booths Abound in October

Members of the LWVTorrance came out to share information with prospective voters at the Torrance Farmers' Market and also at the Lomita Railroad Museum Arts and Crafts Fair. Thanks to members, Pat

Kromka, Barbara Barker, Sue Herbers, Kay White, Andrea Wagner, Sandra Strong, Linda Brown, Venora Lee, Dorothy Stewart,

Ann Smisek, and Celeste Bailey, who all took shifts to greet the public. They also passed out our new membership brochures, successfully enlisting at least one new member, Susan Dever, currently mayor pro tem of Lomita.



Reports *(Cont'd from page 2)*

Directors and committee chairs contributing to the Natural Resources report: Judi Gerber, Briana Krank, Andrea Wagner, and Rick Wagner.

Social Policy—Barbara Barker

Education: The LWVT endorsed Torrance Measures Y and Z, two school bond issues which passed in the election.

Health: The LWVUS has formed its Health Care Task Force and the western states are represented by Doris Nelson, a long-time supporter of universal single-payer health care. Doris is a member of the Los Angeles League and also a member of Health Care for All – California. She has already contacted the LWVC Committee, which has been consulting with her over the past year, and asked for contacts from the other western states

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

LWVT Conducts Forum with Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce

On Thursday, October 16, 2008, 10 LWVT members converged on the Nakaoka Community Center in Gardena to produce a successful forum where four candidates were vying for one vacant City Council seat.



Around 70 people gathered in the auditorium where Sara Colamonico, Secretary of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Barbara Barker, President of the

LWVT, welcomed them and introduced Frances Talbott-White, the moderator. Frances is the Voter Service Director of the LWV Los Angeles League. She was flawless in her duties. Questions were fielded from the audience and reviewed by Lola Ungar and a member of the Chamber. All the candidates were strong and informed in their answers. The League was commended for



the success of the event.



Members participating included Ken and LaVonne Wuertz, Pat Kromka, Mary Lou Busch, Linda Brown, Andrea Wagner, Barbara Barker, Lola

Ungar, and Gerry Rische. Frances Talbott-White is also pictured



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TORRANCE
**ANNUAL HOLIDAY
GALA POTLUCK**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

6 TO 9 PM

**AT THE HOME OF LOLA UNGAR
3903 BLUFF STREET, TORRANCE, 90505**



CONTACT THE LEAGUE PHONE:

310-618-8711

**Annual Holiday Gala Potluck
& State Program Planning
General Membership Meeting
Bring your favorite dish!**



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

County League Members Fly High

The LWV/Los Angeles County held its October Board meeting at the Torrance Airport. The Board took support positions on County Measures R and U. R is based on the transportation position, and U is based on the County Budget position.



After the meeting, several members were treated to a tour of the Western Museum of Flight, which is located just west of the



Administration Building. Jim Christianson and Ray Krank led them through the facility, which houses planes, uniforms, insignia, equipment, books and photographs. Kay White was flying high in the pilot's seat of the F-18 Sabre Jet.



League of Women Voters Beach Cities

School Finance Budget & Governance

Guest Speaker
Kenneth F. Hall
California Forward
Fiscal Policy Advisor

Wednesday, November 19th
7:00-8:45 PM
Manhattan Beach Library
1320 Highland Ave.

All Welcome

(310) 793-0569

www.beachvoter.org

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.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

League of Women Voters of California News

LWVC Has a Contest for You!

While the Legislature makes another stab at creating a budget that the Governor will buy, LWVC challenges our readers to do the same. So here is a contest—with prizes, no less! Click on the links, or play directly from the LWVC website.

[Take the Next 10 California Budget Challenge](#) using the [LWVC State and Local Finances position](#) and [statements](#) as your guide. Submit your budget to the LWVC. The best three will win prizes and be featured in next month's LWVC News. Yes; we know the LWVC position on government finance is complex. But the League is always about balancing theory and reality—as our budget statements show. There is no perfect plan that will achieve a balanced budget that meets League principles. But there are ways to balance the budget that certainly don't.

(Hint: if you drastically slash funding of basic social services and don't raise revenues, you won't win. If you refuse to accept any cuts at all and dramatically increase taxes, you won't win either.)

[Go to the Next 10 California Budget Challenge](#) - Play the game; use LWVC positions and statements and basic common sense as your guide. At the end of the game, where you see Send to a Friend, fill in Recipient e-mail with lwvc@lwvc.org.

First prize: the famous LWVC Poppy Pin—it's back!

Second/third prizes—your choice of an LWVC hat or visor.

Contest begins Monday, November 3, 2008 and ends Monday, November 17, 2008 at the close of business day. LWVC Board, Staff, Off Board Program Directors, and Legislative Consultants are not eligible.

Let the game begin! Need more info? Contact us via email at lwvc@lwvc.org.

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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.

League of Women Voters of the United States News

In a November 6, 2008, press release, LWVUS along with Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG issued the following:

Government Integrity Reform Agenda for 111th Congress

Overriding Priority for Fixing Washington

Repair the public financing system for presidential elections and create a new public financing system for congressional elections.

Other Campaign Finance Issues

- Close major campaign finance loopholes; ban joint fundraising committees used by presidential candidates to circumvent candidate contribution limits; prevent presidential candidates from using candidate/party "hybrid ads" to avoid counting full costs of ads against public financing spending limits; curb Leadership PACs;
- Reform and strengthen the Federal Election Commission; press for Commissioners to be appointed by the President based on qualifications and experience;
- Ensure that independent groups making expenditures for TV ads and other public communications to influence federal elections comply with federal campaign finance laws;
- Strengthen existing bundling disclosure rules to require federal candidates to disclose the total amount raised by each bundler (not just be each registered lobbyist) who raises more than a threshold amount for their campaigns.

Ethics and Lobbying Issues

- Ensure that the new congressional ethics rules and lobbying disclosure law enacted in the 110th Congress are properly interpreted and effectively enforced;
- Ensure that the new Office of Congressional Ethics is properly implemented;
- Reform the Executive Branch Office of Government Ethics; strengthen Executive Branch Ethics rules;

- Support "Public Corruption Prosecution Improvements Act" to close loopholes in the public corruption laws and strengthen their enforcement. ###

LWVUS Joins the National Coalition on Health Care

The LWVUS Board has voted to join The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC), a coalition of over 70 member organizations, including medical associations, labor unions, businesses, religious groups and health care advocates. The NCHC focuses on five principles in health care reform: health care coverage for all, cost management, improvement of health care quality and safety, equitable financing, and simplified administration. [Click here](#) for more information about NCHC.

The items on this page are taken from LWVUS sources.

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

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Torrance
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>

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.

2008-2009 Calendar

Nov. 4	Election Day
Nov. 6, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting, Airport Meeting Room
Nov. 12, 7 pm	EIR Report Scoping Session, Torrance General Plan Update, Council Chambers
Nov. 14, 6 pm	Water Crisis Forum, Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes
Nov. 17, 7-9 pm	Home of Lola Ungar
Nov. 20, 11 AM	Middle School Leadership Conf. Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Dec.	No LWVT Voter
Dec. 4, 6-9 pm	Holiday Potluck (and program planning), Lola Ungar's home
Jan. 8, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Jan. 31	County Winter League Day, subject is water, Taix Restaurant, LA, time tba



League of Women Voters of Torrance

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