



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

January 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.

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The *LWVTA Voter* is published monthly except July and December. All LWVT 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 Board had its annual potluck meeting on Thursday, December 3 which was a great success with outstanding dishes. Co-President Lola Ungar conducted Program Planning for both LWV Los Angeles County and LWV California. A number of ideas were discussed but we decided to participate in the Los Angeles County Jail Study thanks to Emma Simmons for volunteering.

We have planned a number of activities for 2010 including the Chocolate Sundae recruitment meeting in February and Tri-League's Annual Lasagna Dinner in March. Torrance is host of the Dinner, and we will need a committee to work that evening. If you can volunteer, please contact me.

The Board and I wish you and your families the best for the new year.

Linda Brown, Co-President

Speakers Bureau

By Emma Simmons

Calling all speakers! LWVTA is growing and is in the process of expanding its Speakers Bureau.

What is a Speakers Bureau?

A speakers bureau is a coordinated effort by an organization to distribute the organization's information, goals and needs. It is an ongoing public relations effort that includes research, strategic market planning, writing, coaching, promotion, monitoring, and evaluation.

What is the purpose of the Speakers Bureau?

A speakers bureau should be considered a continuous program in a non-profit organization or any other entity aimed at:

- Educating the community about the League.
- Motivating people to donate money or other tangible goods or services.
- Explaining a special endeavor of the group.
- Announcing events or new projects.
- Training and recruiting new volunteers.
- Educating the organization's membership.

Speakers can provide more personal contact than a news release that may or may not carry the planned message. The League representative also can respond to specific audience questions, permitting

[Continued on p. 2]

League of Women Voters of Torrance Area News

Speakers Bureau *[Cont'd from p. 1]*

members of the community to hear the message without media interpretation and clarifying fine points.

Key Elements

1. Selecting the Speakers
2. Selecting the Target Audiences
3. Selecting The Message

After recognizing how a speakers bureau is used, the League must determine what specific messages are appropriate to communicate. It is a good idea to begin by posing these questions:

1. What sets our League apart from others?
2. What are we trying to accomplish?
3. What is the primary reason for the bureau's existence (contributions, education, membership)?
4. Whom do we wish to reach?
5. What is the future of our League?
6. What type of results do we expect?

If you are interested in being trained and/or added to the list of LWVTA Speakers Bureau, please contact me for further details.

LWVTA County and National Program Planning

By Kay White

The League tackled County and National program planning at the Holiday Potluck general meeting. Emma Simmons has offered to serve on the ongoing County Jail Study committee, and the members recommended that the County League take action on voter education in voting by mail and in person.

At the National level, the members concurred with a proposal by some Leagues across the country that we begin a study of civics education being a requirement in public education nationally. And there was general agreement to continue supporting single payer health care at the national level.

There was no interest in the Colorado League's proposal for a

FEN (Fair Elections Now) Act, which deals with public financing for Senate and House elections.

Board of Directors 2009-10

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

Directors

Advocacy: Lola Ungar
Communications: Sydne Morrison
Education/Social Policy: Gerry Rische
Government/Elections: Sue Herbers
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

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

LWVTA on Facebook

Thanks to Emma Simmons for investigating and entering LWVTA on Facebook; and thanks, too, to Andrea Wagner for suggesting that LWVTA create a presence online via social media and thereby aid in attracting potential new members. Please take a moment and look at the site: www.facebook.com/pages/Torrance-CA/League-of-Women-Voters-Torrance-Area/193863248633 (you can cut and paste this link into your browser if necessary). Save it to your "favorites".

Natural Resources Report

By Andrea Wagner

[This report was submitted before the holidays, hence the holiday references. The suggestions are still valid.—Ed.]

- **350 Follow-up:** The UN Global Climate Change Conference took place December 7-18, 2009. Information about the conference is posted at <http://en.cop15.dk/>.
- All locations of Home Depot are now accepting spent compact fluorescent light bulbs - take your unbroken ones to the Returns Desk and a Home Depot Store Associate will see they are properly recycled.
- How big is YOUR carbon footprint? Virtually everything we do results in the release of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, mostly in the form of carbon dioxide. Go to www.coolcalifornia.org to calculate your carbon footprint.
- Check current water levels at www.bewaterwise.com. This is the time of year we can usually ease up on watering, but low rain levels may tempt us to water more than needed. Use the handy watering calculator on the site to see how much and how often to water. Site bases watering plans on different types of sprinklers and irrigation systems.
- Holiday Notes for the Environment:
 - Holiday travel can have a big impact on the environment. Trains and buses can often move as many people as planes, and even though these modes of transit use diesel fuel, they have smaller carbon footprints. Better yet, if time and distance allow, consider driving a hybrid car (renting one if you don't own one) for that holiday trip to Grandma's. If you have to fly, offset your travel impact at www.nativeenergy.com.

- For holiday cooking and beyond, shop at farmers' markets to eliminate the long distances traveled by your food, and help bolster your local economy at the same time.
- When you cook that holiday meal, consider the fact that a microwave uses less power than a conventional oven and creates a lot less indoor air pollution in comparison to other cooking methods. A slow cooker makes an entire meal for less than 10 cents in energy costs. In the oven, glass or ceramic pans are typically better than metal and can reduce your cooking time. Keep your refrigerator and freezer well stocked. A full refrigerator or freezer saves energy by reducing the recovery time when the door is opened....
- Keep in mind that the packaging and wrapping of gifts contribute to a big jump in trash during the holidays. Choose gifts with minimal packaging; wrap in reusable gift bags or recycled wrapping paper, and use old newspaper or other recycled paper instead of tissue. When shipping and packaging, combine your shipments and go easy on the packing materials whenever possible.

Information obtained from the Web and "Green Building Corner" published by Dency Nelson (DLN52@verizon.net).

Mea Culpa

My apologies --the person pictured with the polar bear in the November *Voter* was Ruth Vogel, not Ruth Nadel.—Ed.

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

Deputy Registrar Training

Learn proper methods and techniques for registering voters, conducting petition drives, assisting electors with the completion of voter registration forms, Vote by Mail applications and important California Election Codes related to registration, Vote by Mail and petition requirements.

Participants will receive a copy of "The Guide to Registering Voters" and a Deputy Registrar of Voters Certificate upon the successful completion of the hour and a half training program.

Classes are free, however seating is limited so attendees must RSVP (at telephone numbers shown below) to confirm reservations.

Patt Sanders	562-462-2881
Carlos Madrigal	562-462-2843
Elva Gomez	562-462-2937

Location: Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650
Rm 5219, 5th Floor

Date & Time: Saturday, January 9, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Metro Green Line Extension

In a letter to "Transportation Stakeholders", Devon Cichoski, Constituent Program Manager, Metro, recently wrote:

On Thursday, December 10, 2009, the Metro Board of Directors approved the Harbor Subdivision Transit Corridor Alternative Analysis (AA) Study and authorized moving into the draft environmental clearance for an extension of the Metro Green Line to the proposed Torrance Regional Transit Center. The Board also authorized that the name of the project be changed to the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension to clearly define the project.

During the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (DEIS/DEIR), we will assess whether the line will run on new light rail tracks or on the existing freight tracks via the Harbor Subdivision Right of Way. As part of the analyses, various technologies, such as Light Rail and clean burning Self-Propelled Rail, will be evaluated along with Transportation Systems Management (TSM) and No Build options.

Measure R provides \$272 million for the South Bay Metro Green Line Extension. Over the next month we will be developing our new website and renaming our Facebook group page. We will also be preparing the project for environmental scoping, which is the first

step in the draft environmental clearance process. We encourage you to continue to use these online resources to track the progress of the project.

Mr. Cichoski can be reached at 213-922-6446

Welcome New Members

*Margaret Estrada
And
Athena Paquette*

Open Government

By Dee Hardison

City Council and School District

Elections. As a follow-up to the Joint Meeting of the Torrance City Council and Torrance Unified School District Board in November, the Torrance Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee and the TUSD Committee met in December to discuss election consolidation, election dates and all mail ballots.

It was agreed by both committees that they would go to their full boards with a recommendation that the two agencies consolidate their elections by changing their election date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of even years. This would result in TUSD board members serving an additional 5 months and city council members serving 4 months less as a result of the consolidation. If consolidation is agreed to by both agencies, an initiative to change the date of the Torrance City Council elections will be placed on the June 2010 ballot.

Discussion on "All Mail Ballots" will be done at the next joint committee meeting.

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

2010 Winter League Day

GANGS AROUND THE CORNER
A LOOK AT STREET GANGS

Keynote Speaker - LAPD's new Chief of Police, Charles Beck

Panelists include: Captain Pietrantonio, Supervisor of "Operation Safe Streets" LA Sheriff's Department, Scott Gold, staff writer Los Angeles Times (series on "Promises & Perils of South LA"), along with community activists.

UTLA BUILDING
3303 WILSHIRE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA

SATURDAY
JANUARY 30, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM
BUFFET LUNCHEON



Carpooling recommended - Parking: UTLA Bldg. is at Wilshire & Berendo, accessed off Berendo. The cost is \$5.00/day if you arrive before 10 AM. or, approx. \$13.00/day after 10 AM. Special needs parking is under and through the building for those with displayed DMV placards. (Bring your vehicle close to the chain link gate). Elevators from both parking locations are available to enter the building. Alternate parking is located in an open lot on Berendo across Wilshire on east side of street for \$7.50/day. The Red Line stops just 1-1/2 blocks from the building at the Vermont station.

Please send form and check payable to LWV/LACounty.
Mail to LWV/LACounty Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League Name -----

Attendee Name(s) -----

Deadline is January 16, 2010

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

If postmarked after January 16, 2010
Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

League of Women Voters of California News

Redistricting Implementation

By Dee Hardison

The Applicant Review Panel for the Citizens Redistricting Commission has been selected by a random process. The three members and three alternates are all active certified public accountants with the California State Auditor's Office.

The State Auditor is accepting applications to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission from now through February 12, 2010. If interested, you must apply on-line at www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov.

Ballot Watch

[Excerpted from the November 2009 LWVC Leaders Update]

If you want to keep on top of what has qualified for next year's June or November ballots, visit the Secretary of State's online Ballot Measure Update. From that page, follow links to information about propositions put on the ballot by the Legislature or initiatives/referenda that have qualified for the ballot. You can also check out the initiatives in circulation, read brief summaries, or see the full text of the law.

Three propositions are slated for the June 2010 ballot thus far and just one for the November 2010 ballot. However, there are 33 initiatives in circulation, and another 43 are awaiting title and summary by the Attorney General's office prior to signature gathering. For an initiative (or referendum) to qualify for the June ballot, the signature count by election officials must be completed by January 28, 2010.

Reforming the Initiative Process

In a "Statement to the Senate and Assembly Select Committees on Improving State Government (November 12, 2009), LWVC President Janis Hirohama discussed the problems inherent in the initiative process, made suggestions for improving

it, and recapped League involvement in the past both with participation in the initiative process and efforts to see it revised. Among the suggestions for revision was to retain the direct initiative, but also to adopt the indirect initiative as an option.

The indirect initiative process would provide that a proposed initiative, usually after at least some signature gathering has taken place, be introduced in the legislature. It would then go through the regular legislative process, where it would be subject to review, analysis, and debate and could be amended to correct drafting and other errors before being voted on by both houses. If the legislature passes it in a form acceptable to the proponents, no further action would be necessary. If the measure fails to pass the legislature, or the proponents decide to reject the legislature's version, the proponents can then place their measure on the ballot.

The indirect initiative incorporates citizen-initiated measures into the legislative process of review and revision, improves public scrutiny and awareness of the proposals, encourages compromise, requires the legislature to be responsive, and gives proponents control by offering them the option to put their measures on the ballot if they have been rejected by the legislature or enacted in a form they disagree with.

The entire statement is available at www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/letters/index.html.



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.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance Area, a membership organization, is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to consensus.

League of Women Voters of the United States News

On Health Care Reform

“League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson today acknowledged the Senate’s passage of health care reform legislation ... as a step forward in the struggle to extend health care coverage to all Americans.” She expressed extreme disappointment however, “that this deal came at the expense of a public insurance option, an element the League believes is crucial to protecting consumer choice and controlling health care costs in the long-run.” She is hopeful that the bill that comes out of conference will contain a government-run insurance option.

USA.gov

“LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate has been appointed to an advisory panel to help the U.S. General Services Administration manage an online collaborative dialogue to solicit public feedback on USA.gov, an online portal designed to quickly connect Americans with government offices and services. This task fits in well with other open and collaborative government activities at the federal level in which LWVUS has become engaged since the Obama administration increased efforts to improve government openness, participation and collaboration.” (Source: Leaders’ Update, 12/17/09)

You, too, can participate in providing feedback on USA.gov. The website says, “Welcome to Your Voice Matters an online dialog to improve USA.gov, the official web portal of the U.S. government. To know how to change USA.gov, we want to hear your ideas and to get comments directly from you. So tell us. Share your ideas, tell us what you think of other people’s ideas, and join the discussion. Your voice matters.

“GSA’s Office of Citizen Services manages USA.gov and we want your suggestions as to how to make it better. We’re hosting this dialog until January 15, 2010 to learn how to improve our online delivery of government information and services. We will listen to what you have to say, and implement new and

better approaches to connect people to the government information that they need to improve their lives.

“We want your input about how we can enhance USA.gov, and also your ideas about improving all online government information. We will also be asking how we can improve the general process of getting public feedback. This dialog is an experiment and we are open to all of your ideas.

“We’ll be participating in the discussion too, posting new questions and proposals, and reacting to your comments throughout the duration of this dialog.”

World population projected to 1/3/2010:
6,794,048,085
(In July, 2009, it was 6,755,987,239)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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>

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.

2010 Calendar

Jan. 7, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Jan. 30, 9:30-2 pm	LWVLAC Winter League Day, "Gangs Around the Corner" (see p. 5 for location)
Feb. 4, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Feb. 14, 2-4 pm	Chocolate Sundae (League's birthday), Linda Brown's home
Mar. 4, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Mar. 18, 6:30-9:30 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Dinner, Katy Giessert Library Meeting Room, Torrance Civic Center
Mar. 27, 9:30-2 pm	LWVLAC Convention, Rio Hondo Country Club



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Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested
Time Dated