



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

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

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LWVTA *Voter*

August 2011

Calendar

Saturday, July 30, 2011, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Annual Summer League Day, Popovers in Pasadena, Women's City Club, 160 North Oakland, Pasadena, Entrance in rear off N. Madison Avenue, 1.5 blocks north of Colorado Blvd.

Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Friday, August 26, **91st Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote**

Thursday, September 1, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Thursday, September 22, **LWVTA's Wahoo's Eat to Educate Day** Present the flyer when you go at Wahoo's Fish Tacos (corner of Torrance Blvd and Amie) on September 22nd . Wahoo's is donating 20% of the ticket values of what you eat on that day (excluding alcohol).

Thursday, October 6, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Sunday, October 9, 5:30-9 p.m. **Dangerous Women of California** : The Centennial of Women Winning the Right to Vote, Miyako Hybrid Hotel, 21381 S Western Ave, Torrance

Monday, October 10, **100th Anniversary of Women winning the vote in California**

*(Call for location)

President's Message

The Special Election for the 36th Congressional Seat on July 12th has made more people aware of the need to get involved in the political process. This means the need for education and unbiased presentation of facts is greater than ever. The unique role and power of an organization like the League of Women Voters is more than ever evident and essential. The LWVTA is working on many avenues to get ourselves known. We no longer can be a quasi secret society. Why is it that people only think of us in terms of a group that organizes debates/forums? Who knows but that will be changing. The next year with the Torrance Centennial, the elections, the LWVTA 50th Anniversary, we have a lot of opportunities to be seen and heard.

Over the last month we made great progress in creating our documentary about the LWVTA and its shaping of the City. Thanks go to Marilyn Van Oppen, Tibby Lanzer, Jeanette Pierson, Ruth Nadel, Syd Morrison, Dee Hardison, and Venora Lee for sharing their memories and their vision for the future of the League. I learned so much and am truly grateful. The next videotaping will be at the end of July. If you would like to participate please let me know.

Dangerous Women of California : The LWVTA event celebrating the Centennial of Women Winning the Right to Vote is coming along fabulously. We are so excited with our MC and the speaker. The will be Sunday, October 9th, 5:30-9 p.m. at the Miyako Hybrid Hotel. Email me if you would like to be on a committee such as decorating, greeting/registration, donations/ auction items. Also, if you have any auction items please also let me know. We are putting this together very quickly. We also would like to know of a printer who could do the printing at a discount if you know of one.

Tri League was officially disbanded as an official group but we will have a joint Kick Off with PV and Beach Cities on a Saturday in September. We will notify you as soon as we know the place, time and Speaker.

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Dues for 2011-2012 are due.

Education Report

By Tom Rische

Questions and answers from Dr. George Mannon, Torrance Superintendent at the end of June:

1. *The state now has a budget--or seems to. What effects does this have on Torrance, now that that dust is "settled"? What is the final teacher count?*

Unfortunately, the dust has not settled. The state approved a budget using rosy revenue projections, which may not materialize. The worst part is that if these projects do not become actual revenue, then school districts will automatically face mid-year reductions of between \$250 to \$280 per Average Daily Attendance (ADA). This is bad public policy. I can only describe this budget as a "pretend budget". There are many more pieces of the accompanying budget act, which are examples of bad public policy and stripping away the decision making authority of local school boards.

2. *What possible clouds on the horizon are still there in terms of school financing?*

Mid-year cuts which we cannot financially handle once the school year has begun. The good news for us is that we have large enough reserves at this moment, that if the reductions are forced upon us, we can make it through the year without making additional reductions.

3. *What do you think of Commentator John Stossel's comments that college isn't really necessary?*

The facts do not support his position. We can debate the intrinsic value of a college education, but the fact that over the course of a lifetime that college graduates earn more income than, non-high school graduates is not debatable.

4. *Are public schools in real danger? From what or whom?*

The continuing reduction in revenues to not only K-12 education, but the university systems in our state are putting education at all levels at risk. We, the citizens of this state, cannot allow our educational system to be funded at a rate that is 50th in the nation and expect to have adequate citizens in the future.

5. *What is the status of the various school rehab projects? Hull? South? Seaside? Others?*

Hull will be complete in August 2011. Dedication ceremony has been scheduled for August 31.

Walteria will be completed September 2011.

Magruder will be completed October 2011.

South is in the second year of construction to be completed in the summer of 2012.

Fern will be complete in the summer of 2012.

Seaside started construction this month. Estimated completion summer of 2012.

Lynn started construction this month. Estimated completion summer of 2012.

Wood and Calle Mayor were by DSA* on Monday of this week. Each school will be under construction for about one year.

Hickory and Madrona are in the DSA plan checking process.

North will be submitted to DSA* in September.

**DSA refers to state plan checks.

Board of Directors 2011-12

Co-presidents: Lola Ungar & Athena Paquette Cormier (Fundraising)**
*1st Vice President, Smart Voter: Pat Kromka**
*2nd Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin**
Secretary: Kay White
*Treasurer: Sue Martin**

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Public Relations/Facebook: Emma Simmons



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.

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>

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Barbara Barker our webmistress just attended a weekend retreat on how to maximize our website's capability making it even easier to be informed. In the near future, you will be able to access forms, make donations online, see the different Board position manuals, and register for events by the click of a button on our website.

I want to remind all members that you can attend a Board meeting at any time and even bring a friend. The meetings are the first Thursday of the month.

Please forward or pass on our newsletter to anyone you think might be interested.

Fundraising:

Our Centennial T-shirts are ready! You will be sent an email with the image and an order soon. This commemorates both the LWVTA 50th and the 100th anniversary of CA Women Winning the Right to Vote. The board voted on 3 different designs and we know you will love the winning style.

LWVTA's Wahoo's Eat to Educate Day will be September 22nd and the coupons will be on the website soon and also emailed to you. Wahoo's will be donating **20%** of the ticket values of what you eat on that day (excluding alcohol).

Why is fundraising important? Because it gives us the funds to educate the public on the issues, one of the main purposes for our existence.

Hope to hear from you or see you at an event soon.

Sincerely,

Athena Paquette Cormier, Co-President

We Draw the Lines

by Sue Herbers

From the website <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission has released current visualizations that were developed in the Commission's July 14-16 meetings, for Congressional, Legislative and Board of Equalization districts. The visualizations can be viewed online at [The Statewide Database](#). The Commission will make refinements to these visualizations at its meetings on Friday and Saturday, July 22nd and 23rd. The final maps are scheduled to be released July 29th and there will be a public review period until the Commission votes to adopt the maps on August 15th.

The LWVTA is concerned that the proposed **Congressional District maps** split the City of Torrance into more than one district. Officials in

Torrance feel having one representative would better serve the city's **Community of Interest**. The maps used don't show city boundaries, making it hard to tell if Torrance is one of very few or the only city divided like this.

If nothing else there may be others who are feeling unhappy. Dan Walters, in his July 12th column in the Sacramento Bee <http://www.sacbee.com/walters/> says that the Commission may be failing and that it may be up to the state Supreme Court to fix it once again.



LWVTA & LWVPV members: Geneva Martin, Jo Anne Waller, Jackie LaBouff, Pat Kromka, Linda Herman, Emma Simmons, Eunice Hargrove and Marcia Cribbs help out at the What's Next California weekend.

What's Next CA? by Pat Kromka

On Friday through Sunday, June 24-26, several of our members volunteered to help at the Torrance Marriott South Bay during the What's Next CA? project organized by McNeil/Lehrer Productions. Pat Kromka organized the volunteers and among them were the following LWVTA members: Mary Lou Busch, Marcia Cribbs, Eunice Hargrove, Jackie LaBouff, Geneva Martin, Emma Simmons, Dorothy Stewart and Ruth Vogel. A scientific random sample of more than 400 registered voters representing every region of the state participated in this event working in small groups and posing questions to public officials and policy experts on legislative representation, taxation, the initiative process and whether local governments should have more autonomy and control over public services. Judy Woodruff of the PBS NewsHour was the moderator and the weekend was videotaped for a documentary to be broadcast on PBS stations in California in the fall. Be sure to visit the website <http://www.nextca.org> for more information on California's first ever statewide Deliberative Poll®.



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

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).

Contributions can be tax deductible by making out a separate check to the LWVTA EdFund. We are part of the LWVC Education Fund and can use these donations for Voter Service, public meetings and to offset some of our Voter (newsletter) expenses.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO **LWVTA EdFund** \$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSED CHECK(S) \$_____

Please send form and check payable to **LWVTA**

Mail to **LWVTA**, P. O. 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. **NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY**