



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

<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>  
 Tel. 310-223-689 email [lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com](mailto:lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com)

# LWVTA Voter

November/December 2011

## Calendar

Thursday, November 3, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting\***

Monday, November 7, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
**Realignment Community Forum**, The California Endowment, 1000 N. Alameda St. Los Angeles

Tuesday, November 8, **Consolidated Elections**  
 Go to [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) to view your ballot to prepare for election day.

Tuesday, November 22, **Port of Los Angeles Cruise** LA Port, Berth 77,  
 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for cruise tour of port - arrive by 9:45 a.m.  
 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. lunch at Ports of Call, \$25  
 1 p.m.-2 p.m. car pool for site inspection of new cruise terminal

Thursday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. - **Board Meeting & Holiday Pot Luck Dinner** Lola Ungar's

Thursday, January 5, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting\***

\*(Call for location)

## President's Message

Fall is here! Leaves are starting to turn colors and the persimmons on our tree have turned orange as we vie with the birds for the fruit. Even our family tortoise, Touché, is getting ready for winter as she starts digging to prepare to hibernate. What better time than to tell you about some exciting events that you might want to savor or have missed with League.

### 2011 Fall Kickoff on Choosing a New Voting System for L.A. County

This year the Palos Verdes Peninsula League hosted the Annual Fall Kickoff event on September 10, with speaker Kenneth Bennett from the L.A. County Registrar/Recorder's Office who spoke about *Choosing a New Voting System for L.A. County*. Some of our League members, notably LWV/LAC President Nancy Mahr, have been working with the Registrar/Recorder during the past few years on this project. We learned what our voting system needs (transparency, openness, ease, and verification) the options and the selection process. E-mail members received an outline of that information from Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder by e-mail.

### Lomita Candidates Forum

LWVTA members assembled on October 4, to facilitate the Lomita Candidates Forum with Linda Herman, former LWVC President and PVP member, as the moderator. LWVTA facilitated the event where 3 candidates are vying for 2 seats on the City Council. We were led by Jackie LaBouff, new Voter Service Director, with helpers: Pat Kromka, Athena P. Cormier, Lola Ungar, Terry Furey, Kay White, Mary Lou Busch, Lanna Pian and Barbara Barker.

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## Education Report By Tom Rische

Torrance's Dr. Mannon responded to October's questions as follows:

1. What's happening with Torrance school construction? **Hull is open. The rededication of WALTERIA is Oct. 6. The rededication of Magruder M.S. is scheduled for November 17. South and Fern continue, with both to be completed in August 2012. Lynn, Seaside, Wood, and Calle Mayor are under construction. Hickory and Madrona are in Division of the State Architect (DSA). North was submitted last month to DSA.**

2. Is there anything new on the state financial front for education? **No. The date to be aware of is December 15th, when the State is scheduled to determine whether or not the triggers will be pulled to make reductions in this year's budget.**

3. The League of Women Voters is doing a study this year on the role of the federal government in education. What do you believe its proper function should be? **I don't believe the federal has an active role. Schools are the authority of states and local communities. The financial issues have taken away local control of schools from communities and we are paying a price for that move.**

4. How important do you think Early Childhood Education is? **Early childhood education is very important for the future for all students. It is well known, especially for poor families that the better the early childhood education is for those students, the greater the learning ability in later years.**

5. What do you think of the idea of Common Core Standards? **We believe they are good. However, with the current lack of resources, we do not know how the State can implement them.**

6. What do you think of federal waiving of the NCLB mandate? Why? **We support the move. NCLB should be taken as lofty vision on student achievement, not as an operational policy. As you well know, it is impossible for all schools to have all students at 100% proficient level of testing by 2014.**

7. Would you agree with columnist Kathleen Parker's content in the Breeze) that colleges are failing to prepare students for the "competitive marketplace"? Why? **I disagree with her premise. College is not about job training. It is about education. These two things are very different. I believe because we have been obsessed with the issue of job preparation that we have paid a societal price for students not being educated in the humanities.**

8. What should schools do to prepare students for jobs in the future? **Our job is to educate students to their full potential, not to prepare them for a specific job that might not exist in the future.**

### **Board of Directors 2011-12**

*Co-presidents: Lola Ungar\* & Athena Paquette Cormier (Fundraising)\**

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Smart Voter: Pat Kromka\**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Voter Editor: Geneva Martin\**

*Secretary: Kay White*

*Treasurer: Sue Martin\**

*\*Executive Committee*

#### **Directors**

*Communications: Sydne Morrison*

*Health/Webmaster: Barbara Barker*

*Membership/Land Use: Lola Ungar*

*Natural Resources: Margaret Carter*

*Social Policy/Education: Gerry Rische*

*Voter Service/Pros & Cons: Jackie LaBouff*

*At Large: Eunice Hargrove*

*Public Relations/Facebook: Emma Simmons*

**Special Thanks and Recognition** are extended to our silent auction winners:

Jean Adelsman

Barbara Barker

Raquel Beltran

Margaret Carter

Carmen Freeland

Pat Furey

Dee Hardison

Eileen Hupp

Leroy & Connie Jackson

Tammy Khan

Nancy Mahr

Sue Martin

Jill Maroney

Shirley Pei

Georgia Perkins

Diane Robinson

Richard Smisek

Dorothy Stewart

and to Sydne Morrison for her earlier donation.

## President's Message (continued)

### **Dangerous Women of California, 1911-2011**

We had an awe-inspiring event on October 9, at the Miyako Hybrid Hotel! It was a night to remember as we toasted the *Dangerous Women of California 1911-2011* with the dynamic Sheila Kuehl, former State Legislator. Sheila took us all the way through the history of women achieving the right to vote in California (thanks to the wise men who voted for the initiative) in an easy and unassuming manner making everyone in the crowd of over 60 guests proud to be a part of our heritage.

Jean Adelsman, former Breeze Managing Editor, was our lively Mistress of Ceremonies. There were opportunities to bid for vacation getaways and other auction items. And, Jean, in her inimitable way, made the sale of those items very exciting indeed.

Special thanks go to the organizing committee that was led by Co-President Athena P. Cormier. Other members included Eunice Hargrove, Emma Simmons, Barbara Barker, Pat Kromka, Kay White, and Lola Ungar. Helpers on Sunday night included: Kay White and Celeste Bailey managed the registration; Emma Simmons aided guests; Barbara Barker sold raffle tickets and both helped with auction close out. The raffle ticket winner was Olivia Cormier! Thanks to Sue Martin who worked with: Mark Trapnell of Indigo Card Services to collect the donations. Thanks to Acroprint for their fast work on printing and to Tuan Tran and Scott for the video. Individual kudos go to Eunice and each of her team of helpers: Venora Lee, Celeste Bailey, Eunice Hargrove, Kay White, and Athena P. Cormier. They decorated the silent auction and dining tables with arrangements of fresh yellow and gold daisies and chrysanthemums. Decoratively framed pictures of early California women voters also graced the tables.

Councilman Pat Furey presented the proclamation received from the City of Torrance; Field Deputy Steve Napolitano presented a "Dangerous Women" proclamation from 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe; and Mayor Jim Dear presented a proclamation from the City of Carson. We also received proclamations from the cities of Gardena and Lomita.

This fundraiser was a monumental event for our League. We thank everyone who took part,

everyone who donated their time and those that donated money to our cause. We recognize that times are difficult for many of us and so many of you were willing to help us so generously. Thank you!

If you missed this wonderful evening and would like a DVD of the event, the speech, the proclamation and performance of the original song "Dangerous Woman" - you will be able to order it on line starting November 1st for \$10.

The Torrance Area League wants to recognize guitarist Evyn Charles at our "Celebration of Dangerous Women." Mr. Charles serenaded us prior to and during the Dangerous Women program with an original song titled, "Dangerous Woman" and played background music during dinner. Three cheers for all of our Dangerous Women! Hip, hip, hooray!

Be sure to check the enclosed flyer about the Tuesday, Nov. 22, free boat tour and/or lunch with the PVP League of the Port of Los Angeles. The port has seen a huge face lift in recent times.

**Sincerely, Lola Ungar, Co-President**

## LWV/LA County Fall League Day on Redistricting

On October 22, Steve Napolitano, Alternate on L.A. County's Boundary Committee and Field Deputy to 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe, spoke about the redistricting of L.A. County's Supervisorial Districts and its 15 public meetings, along with many outreach meetings with the public in many areas of the County. 19 maps were submitted by individuals and organizations. The maps submitted by the Committee to the Board of Supervisors caused the least movement of population into 4 of the 5 districts but the Supervisors decided to draw their own maps. Final maps were submitted by 3 of the supervisors. 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe's map was the final L.A. County map approved by 4 supervisors. The new districts may be viewed at <http://redistricting.lacounty.gov/>. Appeals of this decision may yet be made by opponents.

Commissioner Jodie Filkins Webber, a State Redistricting Commissioner from Norco, CA, spoke about the redistricting of the entire state's congressional districts, state senate districts, state assembly districts, and the Board of Equalization. She described the arduous selection process that she endured that was conducted by the State Auditor's Office along with the hiring of staff and

selecting an independent attorney and between competing digital mapping companies that would provide an easily accessible program to draw maps. She described one particularly busy week when she was less than 70 miles from her home going back and forth to sleep and the many fully-noticed public meetings she attended throughout the state because the voters wanted a transparent redistricting process that welcomed public input. Finally, she answered questions about how the Commission actually drew the lines to include communities of interest. For more information, go to [wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov) to see the final plans. Appeals may yet be made by opponents. You can still voice your opinion at these websites.

## LA County Elections Official Releases "General Voting System Principles"

### *Most Significant Overhaul of County Voting Systems Since 1968*

On September 30, , the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) moved one step closer to improving voting systems in Los Angeles County. The RR/CC released a set of General Voting Systems Principles as part of its work through the Voting System Assessment Project (VSAP). The project, and release of these principles mark an unprecedented shift in voting systems acquisition to a more transparent and customer-oriented process with strong citizen participation. "These principles will help guide the County to select and implement a voting system that voters trust is accessible, accurate and secure and that will help provide the highest level of customer service," said Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan.

The fourteen principles establish and communicate a set of core values that reflect the diverse needs and preferences of Los Angeles County voters. The principles were informed by voters and stakeholders through data collected from a countywide survey and a series of focus groups. Based on that data, the principles were drafted in collaboration with an advisory committee comprised of experts and advocates from the elections, voting integrity and civil rights communities. The principles address important values critical to a fair, accessible, and transparent electoral process. These include: transparency, flexibility, integrity and ease of use.

"The committee worked closely with RR/CC leadership in crafting these principles and ensuring that voter needs were reflected," said Virginia Mosqueda, Director of Civic Engagement of the California Community Foundation and Chair of the VSAP Advisory Committee. "The richness of Los Angeles County comes from its breadth of diversity and size, the varied perspectives and experiences that the committee brings to the table helped shape a set of principles that could better guide Los Angeles County in meeting the diverse needs of its current and future voters," added Mosqueda.

"The release of the General Voting System Principles marks an important milestone in the County's efforts to procure a new voting system for Los Angeles County," said Logan. "The principles will guide our efforts to prepare a recommendation regarding the type of voting system and an associated acquisition strategy." The County's voting system has been in use since 1968, undergoing modernization upgrades to replace aging technology and comply with new regulations over the years. The VSAP – a multi-year project – is the most significant effort to overhaul the County's aging voting technology since 1968.

**Source:** LA County Registrar/Recorder October 3 press release, see [http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/Press\\_Releases.cfm](http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/Press_Releases.cfm)

Former President Pat Tyrrell passed away on August 15 in Tempe, Az. Pat was president in 1975-1977. She had been chief administrative assistant to the Dean of Engineering at USC. I succeeded Pat as president and she was a tough act to follow! She was spunky, mischievous and often hilarious and I know she will be sorely missed by her family and friends. **Ruth Vogel**



### 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.

## A War on Voting

Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to "make our democracy so safe for the nation that every citizen may feel secure and great men will acknowledge the worthiness of the American Republic to lead." A major effort to register new women voters and educate them in the political process was prominent on the newly formed League of Women Voters' agenda.

In 1924, existing state Leagues were challenged to increase voter turnout by 25 percent. In September of that year, the LWV of Alabama sent in this report: "As you know it is a very difficult matter to qualify for the vote in Alabama, the registration books are only open three months during even years and ten days during uneven years, and the poll tax books are open only four months every year. Hence after February 1st of any year, it is a practical impossibility to increase materially the number of qualified voters in Alabama."

In the Deep South of the early 20th century, this scheme was doubtless intended to limit qualified voters. Today, early in this 21st century, states are taking steps that will impact the number of qualified voters in the 2012 Presidential Election. Requiring voter ID, limits on third party voter registration drives, eliminating election day registration and curtailing early voting are all measures that have been proposed or passed in a disturbing number of states this year. Coupled with dramatic budget cuts which are closing driver's license offices, democracy is growing increasingly unsafe for the nation.

This week I was a guest on the National Public Radio call-in show, "On Point," featuring an hour-long program on voter suppression, "A War on Voting." A number of callers pointed out the disproportionate impact these laws will have on underserved communities. An election official in rural Tennessee noted that she would be required to turn away voters with whom she is personally acquainted, if they lacked the requisite government issued ID.

Cash-strapped agencies can make seemingly innocuous decisions that impact the right of some Americans to vote. For instance, the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to close offices all across the country, including the reservation in South Dakota where Wounded Knee is located. That post office is a lifeline to the community, including vital voter services such as voter registration and requesting and returning absentee ballots. No one can accuse

the USPS of deliberately impinging on voting rights, but regardless of the intent, the result is the same.

A complacent public may feel that democracy is safe for the nation because many live comfortable lives and have a wallet full of cards, but the League was founded to remove the "remaining legal discriminations ...in the codes and constitutions of the several states" that offered stumbling blocks to the "feet of coming women" voters.

We owe the nation our best effort to make democracy safe for every eligible voter!

**Source:** Elisabeth MacNamara, Leader's Update October 20 , 2011

## LWVTA Financial Report Fiscal Year July 2010 to June 2011

Income		
	Family Dues	\$1,133.00
	Individual Dues	\$2,520.00
	Member Contrib	\$780.00
	Ed Fund Contrib	\$892.00
	Interest	\$52.92
	Annual Meeting	\$1,652.20
	Fundraising	\$290.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,320.12</b>
Expense		
	Board Expense	\$50.00
	Taxes	\$100.00
	Insurance	(\$368.10)
	Postage	\$116.00
	Telephone	\$169.49
	Bulletin	\$320.13
	Local Program	(\$77.08)
	Voter Service	\$205.21
	Ed Fund Costs	\$49.94
	National PMP	\$1,158.30
	State PMP	\$1,345.50
	Annual Meeting	\$613.12
	Fundraising Expense	\$413.25
	Un categorized Expenses	\$61.10
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>4,156.86</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,163.26</b>

## League of Women Voters/Palos Verdes Peninsula PORT OF LOS ANGELES CRUISE



### LUNCH WITH LEAGUE

**JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE EXCITING NEW PROJECTS  
HAPPENING AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES**

**LOCATION:** LA PORT, BERTH 77

**DATE:** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011

**TIME:** 10 AM - 11:30 FOR CRUISE TOUR OF PORT - ARRIVE BY 9:45 AM!

**SCHEDULE:** 11:45 - 1:00 PM LUNCH AT PORTS OF CALL RESTAURANT, \$25  
1-2 PM CAR POOL FOR SITE INSPECTION OF NEW CRUISE TERMINAL,  
ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER AND OTHER PROPOSED PROJECTS.

***NO CHARGE FOR PORT TOUR. LUNCH AT YOUR EXPENSE.***

***SPACE IS LIMITED AND RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED - DEADLINE NOV 14TH.  
PLEASE INDICATE PORT TOUR ONLY, OR PORT TOUR AND LUNCH.***

***CONTACT PAT ROME @ (310) 952-0533***

***OR [pjwrome@yahoo.com](mailto:pjwrome@yahoo.com)***

**LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula**

**[www.lwvvp.org](http://www.lwvvp.org)**

**310-784-7787**



The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles  
and the  
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles  
invite you to attend

## **Realignment Community Forum**

**Monday, November 7th, 2011  
1:00pm—4:00pm**

The California Endowment  
1000 N. Alameda St. Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Parking is free on-site.  
Light refreshments will be provided.

Topics include:

### **How is AB 109 being implemented?**

Panelists include:

Reaver Bingham  
Brad Carson  
Erick Cerda

*L.A. County Department of Probation*

### **Community Response to Reentry**

Panelists include:

Brian Biery  
Mary Weaver

*Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council*

Kruti Parekh

*Youth Justice Coalition & Free L.A. High School*

RSVP online at [www.vpcgla.org/rsvp](http://www.vpcgla.org/rsvp) or contact  
Daniel Healy at [daniel@vpcgla.org](mailto:daniel@vpcgla.org) or (213) 346-3265



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