



**League of Women Voters Torrance Area
50th Anniversary**

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance
<http://torrance.ca.lwvnet.org>
Tel. 310-223-6897 email lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com

LWVTA Voter

April 2012

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President's Message

Dear LWVTA Members,

As I write this, we are in Women's History Month and this year's theme is Women in Education – Women's Empowerment. Certainly the League of Women Voters has at its core the education of women and women educating others. Born out of the suffragist movement and the need to have a "next step" after winning the right to vote, we certainly have educated many along the way.

Final details are being worked out for our 50th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Board Meeting May 5th at the Depot Restaurant in historic downtown. Ruth Nadel, our first President, will be the speaker with memories of the start of LWVTA and several members will be honored. It promises to be an action packed morning. If you have any nominations for any positions or would like to be on a committee, please let us know before April 1st for the meeting kit agenda or bring it to the floor on May 5th.

Our **Eat to Educate** events are going well, the next ones are April 19th all day at Lazy Dog Café and May 17th at Amore Vino. You can go the website for all the upcoming events. This money is important in our mission to educate the public through forums, meetings and literature, so come eat and drink to support that mission.

It's with sadness that I report that we lost one of our earliest members, Jeanette Pierson, on February 25th. Her daughter Jill sent us a short bio to share with you and she will be honored posthumously at a future meeting, since her daughter is unable to attend the annual meeting. Jeanette was very helpful in contributing to the documentary that is in the works and in writing Katy Geissert's story for the upcoming book Women Who Rocked Torrance 1912-2012. I knew her just a very short time, but could tell she was someone to be reckoned with.

As you probably know, our forum for the Torrance elections was canceled since the last of the city council challengers did not file papers. But there are other things in the works so stay tuned.

Calendar

Thursday, March 29, Hold Nominating Meeting for **Normont Terrace**

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Thursday, April 19, **Eat to Educate**, [Lazy Dog Cafe](#)

Friday, April 27, Hold Election for **Normont Terrace**

Saturday, April 28, 9:30 a.m.- noon, **Ballot Measure Training**, Hollenbeck Palms

Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting***

Saturday, May 5, **LWVTA Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary Celebration**

Thursday, May 17, **Eat to Educate**, Amore Vino

*(Call for location)

If you would like to submit an article to the Voter, the deadline is April 15th for the May issue.

Enjoy your newsletter and we hope to see you soon.

Athena Paquette Cormier
Co-President LWVTA

Education Report

By Tom Rische

Question for TUSD Superintendent George Mannon: [Anything on the state budget front?](#)

We are concerned about funding schools based upon the Governor's proposed ballot initiative. If the initiative is not on the ballot or not approved, then TUSD will be reduced \$10 million on January 1, 2013. This is no way to finance schools. It will require us to make two budgets for the 2012-2013 school year. We are also concerned about the Governor's proposal for a weighted categorical program, which would add funds to districts in the state with English learners or low income students. Since TUSD does not meet the state wide average for either group, we would lose funding based upon this proposal.



Get Ready to Vote June 5th - Bookmark These Resources!

Get ready for the June 5 primary election with these nonpartisan League resources:

- [SmartVoter.org](#)– Your trusted source of information about voting and the candidates and issues on your ballot. Smart Voter will provide comprehensive ballot coverage of all federal, state and local contests. To stay informed, like [Smartvoter.org on Facebook](#).
- [EasyVoterGuide.org](#)– Resources for new and busy voters. The [Easy Voter Guide Project](#) is preparing a special four-page guide with basic information for voters to understand how the new Top Two Primary works and summaries of the two statewide ballot measures along with other handy voting tips. The Guide will be available in late April, in multiple languages, both online and in print-ready format for free download. Limited quantities of printed guides will be distributed through libraries and local Leagues around the state. Details

about ordering copies at cost will be available at the end of the month. Questions? [Contact us](#).

- [CAvotes.org](#)– The League's Education Fund Web site. For additional in-depth information, the League is helping voters understand how elections will be different in 2012 on its [CAVotes.org](#) Web site. You can find our handy printable article: ["The Rules Have Changed: Elections 2012"](#) as well as a link to a [great mapping tool](#) to help voters find their new California state districts by zip code. For more info like the [LWVCEF on Facebook](#). Source: LWV California newsletter

Vote With the League on June Election Ballot Measures

We **support** Proposition 28, [the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act](#). This simple reform will help make our legislature more accountable and effective. The current limits on how many terms an individual can serve in the legislature would be replaced by a twelve-year limit on the total number of years one could serve—whether in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of the two.

We have taken a **neutral** position on Proposition 29, the [California Cancer Research Act](#). This measure would add a one-dollar per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, and law enforcement.

Read more about the [League's positions](#). Like the [LWVC on Facebook](#).

Source: LWV California newsletter

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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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
Social Media: Emma Simmons



Jeanette Pierson & Katy Geissert

Jeanette Marie Pierson

November 30, 1916 to February 25, 2012

Jeanette was born in Sioux City, Iowa, and died at Kaiser Harbor City hospital after living for 50 years in Torrance. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James; daughter Jill; and grandchildren Daniel, Amanda, and Alexander Goodwin.

Her father caught the flu during the 1918 epidemic, and never fully recovered. He was a salesman and they moved around quite a bit due to his poor health and employments needs. They eventually settled in Pasadena while my mom was in high school. She graduated from Fairfax High, took a few courses at community college, and then went to work to help support the family. Her own mother had been working for several years by then. Mom worked as a bookkeeper at the Deutsch Company for many years, only quitting/retiring when she married my Dad on May 30, 1957.

She and Dad met at an adult school Spanish class. After they married, they lived for about five years in Hermosa Beach, then moved to Bartlett Drive in Torrance where they remained until 1991, when they moved to New Horizons, a senior citizen condo complex.

She had enjoyed traveling with her girl friends. After they married, she and my father traveled all over the world. Once my Dad retired in 1983, they went farther afield and for longer vacations. People didn't ask me back then HOW my parents were doing, but rather WHERE they were.

Usually their vacations included friends. They had a sizable group of friends who liked to travel and/or camp, and many evenings were spent at a picnic table playing Tripoley or Rummy or Dominoes.

Both of my parents have spent a lot of their free time reading. They participated in a Great Books group that continues today, though I believe none of the current members are original to the group.

My Mom was very involved in local politics. She was the Campaign Chairman for several of Katy Geissert's elections, and got the nickname "General Jeanette" during one campaign due to her ability to delegate. Firmly. She was very involved in the early efforts to get Madrona Marsh designated as a permanent open space, as well as helping create several new parks in Torrance. She advised me on all the local elections. She was a member of the League of Women Voters, and their annual luncheon was one of the last of the outside social activities that my Mom continued after she could no longer leave home alone.

On Feb. 11, 2012, Mom and Dad were at home in their condo. Mom fell and broke her hip. She had hip replacement hip surgery done on Feb. 13. The surgery went well, however Mom developed pneumonia. Her lungs were badly damaged, mostly due to smoking for 50 years, and her heart was no longer healthy. The doctors did what they could, but after a week and a half, it was clear she was not going to get well. We agreed to have her removed from treatment on Sat., Feb. 25. She had other ideas, and pulled out her feeding tube during the previous night. The doctor and nurses made her as comfortable as they could, and she peacefully passed away that evening.

No services are planned.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Torrance Education Foundation at <http://torranceeducationfoundation.org/donations.html> or mailed to TEF, PO Box 1397, Torrance, CA 90505.

Sincerely,
Jill Pierson

Volunteers Needed

We have been asked to monitor and facilitate a nominating process and election for the Board of Directors of Normont Terrace Coordinating Council. The nominating program will take place on Thursday, March 29 and the election will be held on Friday, April 27. The location for both activities is: New Life Center, 25420 Vermont Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710.

Please contact Jackie LaBouff, 310.346.6252, sticher61@hotmail.com for further details.



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**

May 12, 2012 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Harbeson Hall, Pasadena City College
1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena CA 91106

2012 Conference on California & National Health Care...



Keynote Speakers

Anthony Wright

Executive Director of Health Access California

Don McCanne, MD

Senior Health Policy Fellow

Physicians for a National Health Program

Registration Deadline 5/9/12

Space is limited. Please phone the LWV-PA office at 626-798-0965 to register.

Parking at Staff Lot on Hill, \$2
or free street parking



We wish to thank the following generous sponsors:
Health Care for All: San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles; League of Women Voters: Pasadena Area,
Los Angeles, Burbank/Glendale, Claremont Area, Santa Monica,
and San Bernardino; NAMI-San Gabriel Valley; and Ellen Lieberman, MD, Memorial.



May 2012 Conference on California and National Health Care.... Where Are We Now?

Program

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration & Coffee**
- 9:30-10:10 a.m. **Anthony Wright, Keynote Address: *Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (ACA), What It Is and What It Isn't***
- 10:10-10:30 **Don McCanne, MD, Commentary and Dialogue: *The Pluses and Minuses of the ACA Compared to Medicare for All***
- 10:30-10:45. **Recess & Refreshments**
- 10:45-12:00 **Capsule Discussions**
- 10:45 ***Medicare/Medicaid Funding, including Medicare Advantage and Medi-gap Policies ("Not So Scary Truth")***
- 11:05 ***Federal Waiver Requirements for California to pass Universal Healthcare (SB810) Before 2017: Review of federal bills, Vermont experience, and four deliverables from California.***
- 11:25 ***Why Do We Need SB810? Cost and Quality of Care in the USA Compared to Other OECD Universal Care Countries***
- 11:45 ***How Do we Get It? Role of the Premium Commission in policy bill SB810, California Universal Healthcare Act, & Lewin Group Finance System Report***
- 12:00 - 12:30 **Summary and Conclusions: Campaign for a Healthy California video – *Joining the Movement to Win Universal Healthcare in California***

