



**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](mailto:lwv.torrancearea@um.att.com)

LWVTA *Voter*

March (Women's History Month) 2012

**Table of Contents**

President's Message..... 1  
 Education Report ..... 2  
 The Language Of Democracy ..... 2  
 Top Two Primary System ..... 7  
 50 Years Ago - The Torrance League Begins ..... 7

**President's Message**

Dear LWVTA Members,

2012 has begun and we are setting our sights on more exciting events. Some of them will be the County Convention in Burbank on March 31, LWVTA's Annual Meeting in Torrance on May 5, and the LWVUS National Convention in Washington, DC in June.

**Calendar**

Tuesday, February 28, 7 p.m., **LWVBeach Cities consensus on privatization, MB Library**

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m. - **Board Meeting\***

Friday, March 2, 4:30 p.m., **LWVLA member Elizabeth Ralston interviews Assemblywoman Betsy Butler** at her office in El Segundo, 500 Center Street

Wednesday, March 14, **LWVTA Fundraiser, Veggie Grill**, Rolling Hills Plaza

Monday, March 19, 6 to 8:30 p.m. **LWVBeach Cities presents Annual Tri-League Lasagna Supper, Speaker: County Supervisor Don Knabe**, Katy Geissert Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.

Monday, March 26, **Visions of Unity**

Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **LWV LACounty ILO Convention 2012,**

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

Monday, April 16 **Torrance City Council Candidates Forum**

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**

\*(Call for location)

**LWV/LACounty 50th Annual Convention**

You are cordially invited and encouraged to attend the 50th Annual Convention which will take place on Saturday, March 31, from 9:30 AM to 2 PM at Pickwick Gardens in Burbank. Our League will have two delegates. The speaker will be Trudy Schafer, the LWVCalifornia's lobbyist and LWVCalifornia Senior Director for Program. Trudy's talk will give us a "Sacramento Update: What is the Legislature Up To?" She will bring us up-to-date on the issues and personalities in the state legislature. See the attached flier and get your reservations in early. We will be arranging carpooling, so call and let us know if you need a ride.

**LWVTA Annual Meeting & 50th Anniversary**

Join us as we prepare for the Torrance Area's Annual Meeting & our 50th Anniversary that will take place in a couple of months (Saturday, May 5, at Marie Callender's Restaurant at the southwest corner of Torrance & Hawthorne Blvds...more info soon). Some of the ladies who led the way back in 1962 will be feted. A documentary about LWVTA and our first 50 years is being created by Co-President Athena Cormier and Cinematographer Tuan Tran with memories of studies, pictures, dates, places, and happenings that will be featured at the meeting

A planning committee will be meeting regularly at Co-President Athena Cormier's beginning on February 23, at 7 PM. Please call the League phone if you would like to join the planning committee to help us celebrate this momentous occasion and be a part of the celebration to honor the League ladies that . actually made it all happen way back in 1962. If you can't make it this time, call and find out when the next meeting will be.

### ***LWVTA Candidates Forum - City of Torrance City Council***

A LWVTA Candidates Forum has been arranged for the Katy Geissert Library on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM. There are three council positions up for reelection. At the present time no candidates have filed their papers. Nominations will close on March 9 and if any of the incumbents fail to file by then, the nominating period will be extended to March 14. We look forward to our members saying, "Yes!" when we call for you to help with the forum.

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

## **Education Report**

***By Tom Rische***

Questions for TUSD Superintendent George Mannon:

**What's new in the TUSD?** We continue to be concerned about the Governor's proposal to connect "flat funding" to his proposed November initiative. As you know, we sent out an eblast explaining that if the initiative fails to make the ballot or if the voters fail to approve it, then TUSD would be reduced \$10,000,000 on January 1, 2013. Although we have built reserves so that we could make it through '12-13 with that large reduction, '13-14 will be a problem for us.

**How are Torrance schools faring on the funding from No Child Left Behind--or what's left of it?**

NCLB was suppose to be amended or changed by 2008. We are now in 2012 with the political battle in Washington raging on, which creates grid lock in Congress. As you know the lofty goal of 100% of the students proficient by 2014 could never be met and now school districts and schools are seeing Program Improvement sanctions, which require prescriptive use of the funds. This is a real problem throughout the nation. Secretary Duncan has estimated that if the law is not changed, then by 2014, 86% of all the schools in the nation will

be in Program Improvement status. This is ridiculous!

## **The Language Of Democracy**

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan submitted a report to the County Board of Supervisors identifying five new languages that the Department will support as part of its election services. According to the report, Los Angeles County voters will now have access to translated election information in Hindi, Khmer, and Thai. In addition, where a local need is determined, the Department will provide language assistance in the form of bilingual pollworkers in Bengali and Gujarati. This brings the total languages supported by the County to 12 (including English). This now makes Los Angeles County the most linguistically diverse jurisdiction in the nation.

See the full press release under the 2/1 press release The Language of Democracy at [http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/Press\\_Room.cfm](http://www.lavote.net/GENERAL/Press_Room.cfm)

### **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*



Look for election information at <http://www.smartvoter.org/>



Presents:

# League of Women Voters Torrance Area Fundraiser



**Wed., March 14th  
5pm to 9pm**

Present this flyer or mention the fundraiser and 50% of your food & beverage purchases\* will be donated to the League of Women Voters Torrance Area

The Veggie Grill @  
Rolling Hills Plaza  
2533 Pacific Coast Highway  
310.325.6689  
(near the AMC Theatres)

One of LA's Top 10  
New Restaurants  
- CITYSEARCH

Voted #1 New Restaurant  
in Orange County  
- OC REGISTER

One of LA's  
"Can't Miss" Eats  
- LA MAGAZINE

\* Excludes tax, comps & gift cards

Donation void if customers are solicited or flyers are handed out in or near restaurant

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
BEACH CITIES**

**Invites you to the Annual Tri-League Lasagna Supper**

**Monday March 19, 2012 6 PM—8:30 PM**

**The Katy Geissert Torrance Memorial Library  
3301 Torrance Blvd, Torrance CA**

**Our Guest Speaker for this event will be from the office of  
County Supervisor Don Knabe**

**We will be looking at the current issues affecting  
the South Bay and Harbor Area**

**Cost \$15.00**

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**Send your reservations to :** League of Women Voters Beach Cities  
629 19th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 **Reservations are due by  
March 12, 2012**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



# LWV/LACounty

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

An Inter-League Organization – Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area  
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

## 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

**Saturday, March 31, 2012**

**9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Sacramento Update:**

**What Is the Legislature Up To?**

**Trudy Schafer**

**LWV California Senior Director for Program**



**1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank  
Tel. 818-845-5300**

**CONVENTION KITS** for delegates will be mailed to Local League Presidents by the end of February. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

**All members are encouraged to attend.  
Parking is free.**



Please send form and check payable to LWV/LACounty by **March 16, 2012**  
Mail to LWV/LACTreasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505

Check if Delegate     Check if Vegetarian     Specify Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check if Delegate     Check if Vegetarian     Specify Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_

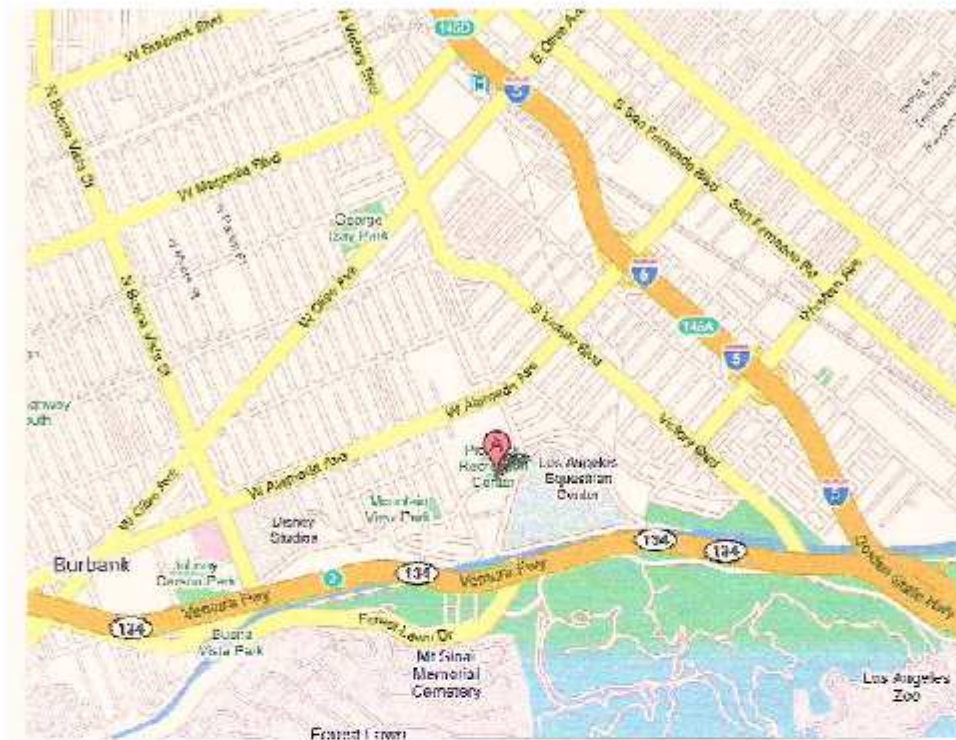
Check if Delegate     Check if Vegetarian     Specify Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is March 16, 2012**

Total No. of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***If Postmarked After March 16, 2012***

Total No. of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO PICKWICK GARDENS  
1001 W. RIVERSIDE DR., BURBANK**

**I-5 - From the SOUTH** After passing the merger of the 134 into I-5 (in Glendale) move immediately to the right lane and exit via the Western Ave. off ramp going west. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right on Western and go to Riverside Dr. and turn right. From there it is ½ mile to the front of Pickwick but do not park in front. Go on 1/10 mile around a curve on Riverside Dr. and turn into Pickwick's long driveway past the Ice Rink into their large parking lot at the back near the Garden entry and sales office.

**I-5 - From the NORTH...** Exit Western Ave in Glendale, using the west off ramp, and turn right onto Western. Proceed to Riverside Dr. and turn right. See directions above.

**134 - From the EAST...** When passing through Glendale move right into the lane with the I-5 Bakersfield sign. Immediately after the merger into I-5, take the Western Ave. (west ramp) and turn right at the bottom onto Western Ave. Go to Riverside Dr. and turn right. See directions above under I-5.

**101 & 134 - From the West** Take the Hollywood freeway (101) east onto the Ventura (134 – East) and exit at Buena Vista off ramp in Burbank. Turn right at the bottom at the signal and then turn on to Riverside Dr. Pickwick is about 1.5 miles on your left, just past Mariposa Ave. Take Pickwick's first drive on the left, past the ice rink entry and park at the back near the garden entry, passing the entrance to ice skating and park at the back near the garden walkway.

**PARKING IS FREE**

## Top Two Primary System

There are actually two primary elections taking place on June 5, 2012: a) the Presidential Primary, which is a partisan party nomination process used to select candidates for President and county central committees and b) the statewide Top Two Primary elections for congressional and state elective offices. The Presidential Primary produces "party-nominated candidates" for president who then appear on the November General Election ballot by party. This is the type of primary that California voters are used to. The Top Two primary system, however, produces two "voter-nominated candidates" who have received the two highest vote counts and who then advance to the November General Election. Even if one of the candidates receives more than 50 percent of the votes, there is still a "runoff" between the top two vote getters. With the Top Two Primary system, all candidates running for an office are listed on one ballot, regardless of their party preference. All voters may vote for any candidate in the list.

Here are some of the special features of balloting in the Top Two system that need to be understood by the voters:

- The Top Two system was placed on the June 2010 ballot by the legislature as a result of state budget negotiations and was passed by the voters.
- Voters will not see a "straight party ticket" on the ballot, but rather a list of names for the different contests with each candidate's party preference indicated. However, a candidate for a voter-nominated office may choose not to have his or her party preference—as disclosed on their most recent affidavit of registration—indicated on the ballot. It is possible for two voter-nominated candidates with the same party affiliation to appear on the November ballot.
- Political parties may endorse candidates in the Top Two primary. Sample ballots must include a section listing these party endorsements.
- Although votes may be cast for write-in candidates in the Top Two primary election, no write-in votes are allowed in the November general election for the Top Two contests.

As of this writing, there are court challenges to the Top Two Primary system currently pending,

based on the ban on write-in votes in the General Election for Top Two offices and on constitutional issues of third party access to the ballot and voters' right of choice.

For frequently asked questions about the primary elections in California, you can go to this link on the Secretary of State's website:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2012-elections/june-primary/faqs-primary-2012.htm>

May 21, 2012 is the last day to register to vote in the June 5, 2012 primary elections.

Source: LWV California website

## 50 Years Ago - The Torrance League Begins



*Transcript of announcement in the March 11, 1962 Torrance Herald*

### League Set For Study of Government

Members of the newly organized Provisional League of Women Voters of Torrance will hold their first unit meetings next week. Study groups will take place Tuesday evening at 7:45 at the home of Mrs. C. R. Berwanger, 5617 Andrus Ave., and Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. at the home of Mrs. S. R. Saunders, 5128 Merrill St.

Topic for discussion will be the relationship of state government to metropolitan government. A bird's eye view of the year-long state league study in this field will be presented under the chairmanship of Mrs. Donald Brink.

In addition to the study program, an orientation for new members will be conducted, according to Mrs. Lee Bower, program chairman. Purpose of the orientation is to familiarize new members with the function of unit meetings and the relationship of the individual member with the total league role.

Future unit meeting plans call for a "Know Your Town" study to be initiated in April in which members will investigate all aspects of local government.

Persons interested in obtaining additional information regarding unit meetings are asked to contact Mrs. Robert Christensen, FR 5-8270.

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**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**