



League of Women Voters of Torrance

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

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

LWVT Voter

February 2008

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, 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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All LWVT members are encouraged to provide relevant articles and calendar events for publication in the *LWVT Voter*. Articles must be nonpartisan and are subject to editing. Submissions are emailed 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

Happy 88th League of Women Voters – and Valentine's Day – to all. We enjoyed a fun and successful Chocolate Sunday where three new members joined the league and seven other prospective members heard our information and took away our membership applications. Thanks to Linda Brown for providing a warm, inviting environment in her charming home for the event, and to the Membership Committee, Venora Lee, Lola Ungar, Eunice Hargrove, Linda Brown and myself, for planning the meeting. And a special thanks to our members who attended, welcoming the guests and contributing to the chocolate offerings.

Look forward to our next event: Sunshine Week – Government Access Is for Everyone, where we will have a "Get the Facts" Panel and a "Get into the Act" Fair. There is more information inside. If you'd like to volunteer to help on the event, contact Venora Lee or me.

Both the County and US Conventions, as well as our Annual Meeting, are coming up and all members are welcome to attend. These are opportunities to hear expert speakers, find out the details of the League's work on issues, and meet many interesting people.

The Primary Elections taking place nationwide are exciting. It seems that many more people are involved in the selection process. The younger generations have become more

engaged; people watched and discussed the debates; and people were looking for information on the ballot measures. At the polls, we had a steady stream of voters looking forward to the process. I think our upcoming Sunshine Week activity is well timed. We have great speakers on the panel, and the political parties and organizations will be at tables in the lobby for the fair.

Barbara Barker

February Board Highlights

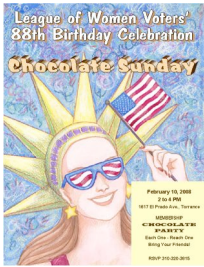
County Convention: Barbara Barker and Pat Kromka will be our delegates to the County Convention to be held on Saturday, March 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Almansor Court Restaurant in Alhambra. The new County CEO will be our speaker. If you can go, send your check for \$25 (\$30 after March 21) payable to LWV/LAC to Gwen Cochran, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501. Carpools can be arranged.

LWVT Annual Meeting: As you know, it will be on May 31. If members want to submit proposed new program, action item suggestions or any bylaw changes for consideration at the annual meeting, they must be submitted to the board by March 6.

Kay White

The League thanks
Liz Mathews
for her generous contribution!

League of Women Voters of Torrance News



Chocolate Sunday – Good to eat and good to meet

Ten members and ten guests arrived at the home of Linda Brown on Sunday, February 14th to enjoy scrumptious chocolate temptations. Of the ten guests, three became



Annette Logan

new LWV Torrance members at the event and all the others took home membership applications.

Please welcome Annette Logan, who is a returning Leaguer, and mother and daughter, Laura and Erin Hastings, both new to the League.



Laura and Erin Hastings

Photos courtesy of Barbara Barker

Board of Directors 2007-08

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2nd Vice President: Sue Herbers
Secretary: Kay White
Treasurer: Sandra Strong

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Off-Board Portfolios

Telephone Tree: Sydne Morrison
Nominating Committee: Adriene Henry

Committees

Budget: Marcia Cribbs
Fundraising: Janice Steffen

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown

Sunshine Week

Celebrate Sunshine Week with the League Friday, March 21, 2008, 7-9 pm, Torrance City Hall West Annex, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. For program details, see our flyer included with this issue of the *LWVT Voter*.



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

Health Care Update

By Barbara Barker

The Health Care Bill put forth by Governor Schwarzenegger and Senator Fabian Nunez failed to pass the Senate Health Committee and died. This was a relief and a triumph after all the work put forth by the League of Women Voters, Health Care for All Californians, the California Nurses Association and many other groups. During the hearing, the LWVC Lobbyist, Trudy Schaeffer, did a masterful job in her testimony.

Here is the report of Andrew McQuire, of Health Care for All, who attended the hearing:

Yesterday was the first COMPREHENSIVE hearing on ABX 1 1, the Rube Goldberg Special. We must thank Senator Kuehl for shining daylight on this monstrously complex legislation that supporters call Health Care Reform. And, we must thank the state Legislative Analyst, Liz Hill, and her staff for an objective report on the fiscal problems with ABX 1 1, a report that I found devastating for the supporters of ABX 1 1, and we must thank the staff of the Senate Health Committee for presenting another devastating analysis. (see www.sen.ca.gov/kuehl)

I won't attempt to summarize the hearing (I was only present from 9:00am until 5:30pm) which lasted until 8pm. However, here are the key points, as I see it:

1. The proponents are formidable and much is at stake for them. The Governor and Nunez are counting on victory in order to display their leadership, accrue power, etc. SEIU, AARP, Health Access and other supporters believe (for economic or philosophical reasons) that they see the "truth" and wish to solve the health care crisis with this "work in progress" legislation. In short, for them ABX 1 1 is better than the status quo.

2. When ABX 1 1 is scrutinized some horrible facts emerge. . It is not better than the status quo. Instead, ABX 1 1 would "mandate" the creation of an additional 3 or 4 million private insurance policy holders who would not be able to afford using their policies. High deductibles will render the policies useless; a person making \$40,000 or \$50,000 per year doesn't have a spare \$5,000, \$7,500 or whatever the deductible becomes, to spend on their health care before their policy kicks in? And this doesn't include co-pays, an additional financial burden for the "mandate" class of people. Proponents say that if a mandate is too expensive, a person can petition to opt out of the mandate. If a person opts out of the state mandate they opt to, yes, you guessed it, no coverage.

3. Most importantly, the Legislative Analyst concluded that reasonable projections of expenditures for the ABX 1 1 plan would outstrip revenues within 5 years. The plan goes bankrupt rather quickly. It is important to note that the Leg Analyst testified that she did not project a "worst case" scenario in her report. Imagine if economic times became rough; could happen, no?

In short, ABX 1 1 is too costly for poor people to use and it will go bankrupt. As long as the insurance industry is part of the "health care reform," failure to solve the health care crisis is guaranteed.

A Summit is being held in Los Angeles February 21-23 to determine the future of single payer legislation. Watch for the update next month as a look into our future.

Financing Our League

Torrance League supports its activities through dues, fund-raising, and donations. This year, funds are running low, and we are facing the possibility of dipping into reserves to meet increased costs, including the probability of an increase in the per-member payments (PMP) we are required to make to one or more of the umbrella leagues. (As you know, the membership dues you pay annually to the Torrance League automatically provide membership in the national, state, and county Leagues and contribute to the support of each of them.)

Our League is seriously looking into fund-raising activities to augment income from dues and welcomes donations. A contribution to the Torrance League of Women Voters is not tax deductible because of our advocacy activities, but a contribution made to the LWVT Education Fund is totally tax deductible. Send donations to Sandra Strong, LWVT treasurer.

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

Immigration Study

LWVUS has undertaken a study of immigration in order to establish a position from which to advocate. Torrance and Beach Cities leagues participated in the study by forming a joint committee to study the issues related to a set of discussion questions formulated by LWVUS. Study materials were provided on the LWVUS website. The questions were published in the October and November *LWVT Voters*. Following their study of the issues, the joint committee then held two open meetings where the questions were discussed and consensus sought. Following are the results reached [in brackets] at the local meetings for question 1. Results for questions 2-6 will be published in future issues of the *LWVT Voter*.

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

- a. Ethnic and cultural diversity [Lower priority]
- b. Economic, business and service employment needs [High priority]
- c. Environment impact/sustainability [Lower priority]
- d. Family reunification of authorized immigrants and citizens with spouses and minor children [High priority]
- e. History of criminal activity [High priority]
- f. Humanitarian crises/political persecution in home country [High priority]
- g. Immigrant characteristics (health and age) [Lower priority]
- h. Rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wage [No consensus]
- i. Rights of families to remain together [Higher priority]
- j. Rights of individuals in the U.S. to fair treatment under the law: fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and humane treatment [No consensus]
- k. Education and training [Lower priority]

Question 1 part 2: Three most important criteria (rated by each person)

1. Economic, business and employment needs
2. Reunification of authorized immigrants and citizens with spouses and minor children
3. Rights of families to remain together

Mary Lou Busch, Torrance member of the joint committee, reported the results of the meeting.

Storybank – Doing Something About the Issues

By Mary Lou Busch

I knew of the work of the League of Women Voters in Cincinnati where my best friend was president in the early 60's. I would hear of the things they did but could never seem to find time to join. I had three small children and was very active in my church and Girl Scouts. We moved several times after that and I finally had time to join the Torrance League when we retired in 1986.

I joined because I could find out what was going on in Torrance and California, which were new areas for me. I could meet the candidates to acquire enough information to vote intelligently. I also became a part of the Healthcare Study, an area that much interested me. LWV helps keep me up-to-date on issues and to do something about them.

Members are encouraged to submit their stories to LWVUS at www.lwv.org/Storybank.

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News

Harbor Tour Draws Crowd

March Tri-League Event

On a beautiful, February 7 morning enhanced by a backdrop of snow-capped mountains, several Torrance Leaguers embarked

on a Spirit Cruises tour boat based at Ports O' Call Village



for a tour of Los Angeles Harbor. They



were joined by about 40 other Leaguers from around the county

for the tour sponsored by the county

League and arranged by the Port of Los Angeles. The guide,



emphasizing the environment and "ship-to-shelf" goods movement, also pointed out sites of historical interest.



The Lane Victory, WWII troop transport

“INITIATIVE PROCESS: IS THIS ANY WAY TO RUN A GOVERNMENT?”

Guest Speaker

**ROBERT STERN, PRESIDENT
CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES**

Sponsored By

**THE TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES – PALOS VERDES – TORRANCE**

18TH ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Supper (\$10.00) 6:00 P.M. Program 7:00 P.M.

For reservations please make your check payable to Tri-League of Women Voters and send with tear-off by March 7, 2008.

Send to:

Peggy Bartlett
701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach 90266
Ph: 310-545-1087

Number of reservations _____ \$10.00 per person

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s)

Phone

League _____

League of Women Voters of California News

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2008

“Bridge to the Future”

WHERE: Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza
300 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

WHEN: Saturday May 17 – Sunday May 18
Reception: Friday, May 16 at LWVC Office

Registration opens February 19, 2008

Workshops

Workshops are open to members and non-members.

Please invite your friends and colleagues to join you in enjoying these educational and networking opportunities; the diversity will enliven our discussion and provide an introduction to people new to the League.

Fees will be structured to allow registration for individual workshops, workshops for a full day, or multi-day workshop attendance.

Plenary Sessions

All members may attend the plenary sessions but only official delegates (President or their designee) may vote.

Observing League process is a valuable educational experience for League leaders and transparency is a core value of the League; please encourage your League board, committee chairs, and interested members to attend.

If you are an interested League member, please read the January UPDATE from the LWVC board (posted to the [member's only Web site](#) January 28) for additional information.

For more information, contact: Trudy Jarratt, Vice President evp@lwvc.org

The League Tackles the Budget Crisis

Reality has finally arrived in California. The state is once again in financial meltdown. The LWVC will be there at the table, promoting our views and making nuts and bolts recommendations for getting out of this mess and making changes to prevent another mess. We have already signed three policy letters with coalition partners, urging sensible cuts, keeping all options on the table (including revenue increases), and structural reforms. These letters, issued by the Budget Allies, Green California, and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition, are available online at ca.lwv.org.



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

Information on this page is from LWVC sources.

League of Women Voters of the United States News

The League's Birth

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work. From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed

participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From the beginning the League took action on its stands; for several years, through effective lobbying, the League got selected issues included in the platforms of both major political parties and worked for enactment of legislation furthering its program goals. Over the years many procedural changes have been made in the way League program is defined, adopted and structured, but through all the changes the basic concept of study-member agreement-action has remained constant.

[Excerpted from "The League Through the Decades" written by Kay Maxwell, former LVUS president, and available in full on the LWVUS website.]

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

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Torrance
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: www.lwvc.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.

2008 Calendar

Feb. 14	League of Women Voters birthday
Feb. 18	President's Day
Mar. 6, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Mar. 13, 6 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Dinner & program (7 pm), Katy Geissert Library, Torrance Civic Center
Mar. 21, 7-9 pm	Sunshine Week Celebration, Torrance City Hall West Annex
Mar. 29, 9:30 am-2 pm	County Convention, Almansor Ct., Alhambra
Apr. 3, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Apr. 16, 7-9 pm	Candidates Forum, Torrance City Council, Toyota Meeting Hall, Cultural Arts Center
Apr. 26	County Ballot Briefing for June Primary



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Time Dated