



League of Women Voters of Torrance

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

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

Tel. 310-618-8711

LWVT Voter

February 2009

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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The *LWVT Voter* is published monthly except July and December. 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. Email submissions 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

We celebrated the League's 89th birthday with our Annual Chocolate Sunday on February 15th at the lovely home of

Linda Brown. Members and guests



enjoyed this rare purely social event and all the chocolate they could eat. Thank you to Linda and to all the members who donated chocolate treats.

If you have been thinking about taking a more active role in League, this is your season. We need on-board directors and officers who attend monthly board meetings and contribute to the administration of the LWVT. We also need off-board directors, committee chairs and committee members who concentrate a little time on specific areas of interest and keep the rest of us informed. If you are interested, read the article about board opportunities and contact one of the Nominating Committee members. You would be elected or appointed at the end of May, go through orientation meetings during the summer and serve for two years. It's fun and rewarding.

In February, members are participating in the National Popular Vote Consensus meeting and Chocolate Sunday. In March, we are offered the Tri-League Lasagna Dinner on the 12th and a general meeting about the progress of health care proposals at the state and national levels on the 14th.

The end of the month brings the LWV/LACounty Convention in Burbank. There will be great speakers at all these events and all members are welcome. I hope to see you there.

Barbara Barker

League Board Opportunities

Members who wish to expand their leadership skills might consider taking a position on the League Board. The Nominating Committee is currently polling members for their interests. There are several levels of effort available and all are necessary to have a thriving League.

The officers, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, have specific duties and are also generally in charge of the administrative functions of the League. There are also up to 12 on-board directors as our bylaws call for a total of not less than 10 or more than 17. These directors focus on specific areas of activity, awareness and advocacy. They are supported by off-board directors who are not required to attend the monthly board meetings and send their reports in via email. The membership sees excerpts of these reports in the *Voter*. There are many resources for gathering the information and guidance and mentoring for taking action.

If you are interested or especially skilled for an officer or director position, contact the Nominating Committee and discuss it. Several of the people in positions that are not slated for vacancy would give up their current commitment to concentrate on another area so don't feel constrained.

(Cont'd on page 4, Opportunities)

League of Women Voters of Torrance News

Working Party for Children News

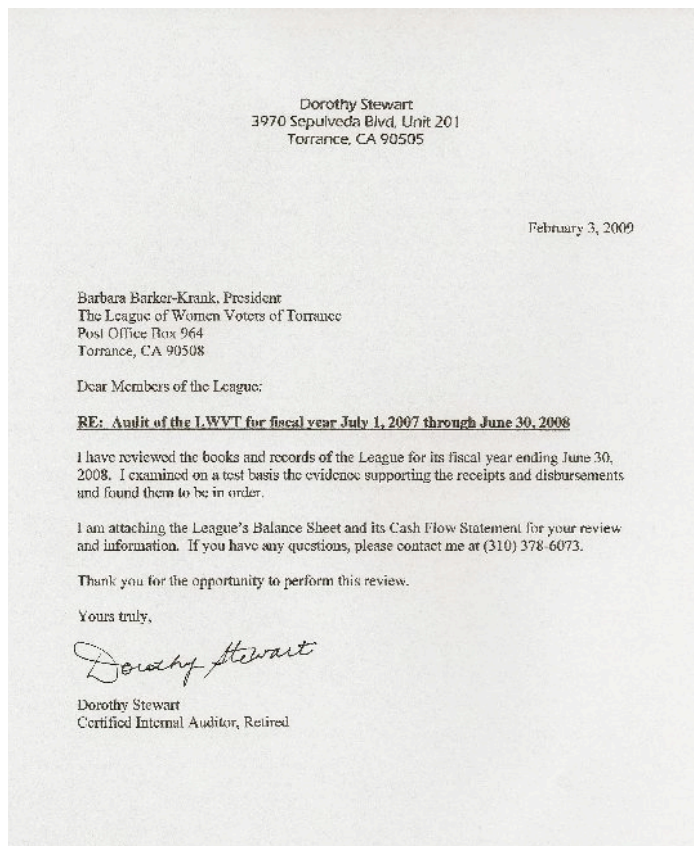
After ten years of delays and many millions of dollars in federal penalties, California now has a certified computer system for child support case management. The LWVC was instrumental in supporting legislation establishing the Department of Child Support Services at the state and county levels. The new system will allow all county child support departments to communicate with each other as well as the state Department.

The community conference sponsored by the Santa Monica Child Care & Early Education Task Force and RAND, "Taking Stock: California's Investment in Early Childhood Education and Possible Short Term Effects of the Budget Crunch" was scheduled for Saturday, January 31 at RAND headquarters in Santa Monica. Lynn Karoly was scheduled as the main speaker. Her reports are available at www.RAND.org.

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LWVT's Books in Order

(Supporting documents mentioned below have not been reprinted)



Board of Directors 2008-09

President: Barbara Barker*
1st Vice President: Pat Kromka
2nd Vice President: Sue Herbers*
Secretary: Kay White*
Treasurer: Sandra Strong

Directors

Advocacy: Lola Ungar
Communications: Sydne Morrison*
Financial Development: Vacant
Juvenile Justice: Vacant
Government/Elections: Sue Herbers
Membership: Venora Lee
Natural Resources: Andrea Wagner
Observers: Vacant
Program: Vacant
Public Relations: Lola Ungar
Social Policy: Barbara Barker
Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz*
Voter Service: Pat Kromka

Off-Board Portfolios

Coastal Issues: Briana Krank
Education: Mark Steffen
Energy: Rick Wagner
Health Care: Barbara Barker
Land Use: Lola Ungar
Mental Health: Carol Adams Smith
Open Government: Dee Hardison
Public Libraries: Judi Gerber
Water and Agriculture: Judi Gerber
Webmaster: Barbara Barker

Committees

Budget: Dorothy Stewart
Executive: Noted by asterisks
Local Action: Gladys Meade
MGIK (Membership Initiative): Barbara Barker and Venora Lee
Nominating: Celeste Bailey

Tri-League Liaison: Linda Brown

*Welcome new member
Anne Wittels*

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

2009-10 State and Local Programming

All LWVT members were encouraged to participate in the meeting held Saturday, January 24th, at the home of Marcia Cribbs to discuss program planning for the state and local league. Attending were Celeste Bailey, Barbara Barker, Linda Brown, Mary Lou Busch, Marcia Cribbs, Eunice Hargrove, Emma Simmons, Kay White, Bertie Wood and Ken and LaVonne Wuertz.

Also attending as a resource person and to lend her advice was Wendy Phillips from the LWV California board.



Among the local topics discussed were our current positions (which you can find in your roster booklets); whether to propose a new study; our name; the Torrance General Plan; Torrance becoming a green city (suggested as a topic for a future meeting); and LNG (liquid natural gas). State issues included the LWVCs current positions; the proposed prison study; and issues for education or advocacy.

Local Issues

The group voted not to undertake a new study and agreed to retain all current positions but expressed concern about our support of local term limits in view of the LWVUS position which opposes them. There was general agreement that this should be checked with National. There also was interest in updating our local positions in light of the inclusion of Lomita, Gardena, Carson and Harbor City in our service areas. Pat Kromka has agreed to chair a committee to look into this topic and also to consider whether our name should be changed to reflect the larger area served by LWVT. Linda Brown and Kay White volunteered to be members of the committee.

There was general agreement to retain emphasis on supporting and participating in the process of updating the Torrance General Plan. Wendy Phillips said she would be happy to be used as a resource on this and other land use matters.

Although quiescent at the moment, the Woodside offshore LNG (liquid natural gas) station proposal generated

considerable public controversy recently. In light of the controversy and in order to be prepared for a resurgence of any new LNG proposals, it was suggested that we join with Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, and Santa Monica to look into the issue. There was general agreement to ask the Natural Resources Director to pursue the multi-league task force idea.

State Issues

State positions were posted on our website in January and mailed to those members not receiving the *Voter* electronically. The group voted to retain all the current state positions and elected not to support initiating a new state study including the aforementioned prison study. Regarding state education and advocacy issues, the group favored focusing on implementing redistricting reform, health care and education. Eunice Hargrove and Bertie Wood agreed to work on redistricting; Celeste Bailey, Barbara Barker and Mary Lou Busch agreed to work on health care; and Mark Steffen will be asked to work on education. LWVT's decisions will be forward to LWVC.

National Issue

In between announcement of this program planning meeting and its occurrence LWVUS issued a call for leagues to participate in a national consensus study on a National Popular Vote. This is a proposal that would require the electoral college to follow the popular vote, thus providing for a true popular vote in national elections while not requiring amending the Constitution. Because of the timing imposed by National, this topic was added to the agenda and discussed. The group agreed that LWVT would accept Beach Cities' invitation to join their consensus meeting in early February.

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

Opportunities *(Cont'd from page 1)*

While some of the directorships really need to be on-board, many are flexible in that they could be filled by an on-board or off-board director. All of the positions welcome committee members.

Please consider these positions:

President (best if you have served on the Board at least one term),

1st Vice-President, Administration

Secretary (minute taker, record keeper, calendar coordinator, announcer of meetings)

Treasurer (payer of bills, bookkeeper, liaison to budget committee)

Social Policy Director (covers Education, Housing, Mental Health, Mental Health, Community College and Juvenile Justice with on- and off-board directors covering most specific areas)

Voter Service Director (coordinates candidate forums)

Voter Guide/Pros and Cons Director (assists Voter Service with handling publications)

Observer Corps Director (coordinates a team to attend or at least tele-view public meetings)

Speakers Bureau Director (coordinates training of speakers and engagements)

Budget Committee chair or member

Election Systems Director

Voting Rights Director

Campaign Financing Director

Initiative and Referendum Director

Reproductive Choices Director

State and Local Finances Director

Air Quality Director

Hazardous Materials Director

Transportation Director

Education Director

Children and Family Issues Director

Housing Director

Community College Systems Director

Juvenile Justice Director

Directors Reports

Natural Resources (Andrea Wagner, Judi Gerber): The water crisis in California continues to develop. Residents are being encouraged to conserve now and discussions of restricting usage are once again being raised by government entities. LWV of Los Angeles is having a forum "Water Crisis in Los Angeles" on April 23, 2009, at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (9 to 1, bring your own lunch). If you are interested call 213-368-1616 or email nima@lwvlosangeles.org.

Social Policy—Education and Health (Barbara Barker): The Torrance Unified School District Board of Trustees has appointed the committee to oversee the spending of the funds obtained through the bonds passed in the November election.

The LWVT **Health Committee** is coordinating a meeting on the State and National Health Care Propositions to be held on March 14th. The main speaker will be Doris Nelson of the Los Angeles League, who is also a member of Health Care Now and serves on the steering committee of the OneCareNow campaign. She was appointed to serve on the LWVUS Health Care Project Team. After her setting the status of health care reform, Don McCanne, Physicians for National Health Care, and his wife Sandy McCanne, the Health Care Director of her League in Orange County, and I will join in the group discussion.

A Different Opportunity

Is there a member out there who would investigate how we can reduce our phone service bill? If so, please contact Sandra Strong at the league number, 310-618-8711 or the number in your roster.

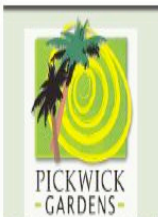
Celeste Bailey chairs your Nominating Committee. If you can't access your roster for her number, contact 310-618-8711 and leave a message or email president1@torrance.ca.lwvnet.org.

League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF 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/San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

47th Annual Convention



BREAKFAST BUFFET
in the Terrace Room
1001 W. Riverside Drive
Burbank, CA 91506
818-845-5300
Parking is free.

SPEAKER ON GOVERNMENT TO BE ANNOUNCED

Saturday, March 28, 2009
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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.

✂.....

Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League _____
Important: Please indicate which members are delegates (D) and which are non-delegates (N).
Name(s) _____

Deadline is March 13, 2009

Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 = Total \$ _____

If Postmarked After March 13, 2009
Reservations # _____ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ _____

Please remember to bring canned or boxed goods or a check for the L A Regional Food Bank.

Save the Date: May 31, LWVT Annual Meeting!

VOTING REFORM

Guest Speaker

ERIKA BONILLA

Acting Executive Liaison Officer
For the Deputy Registrar

SPONSORED BY
THE TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES - PALOS VERDES -
TORRANCE

19TH ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER

George Nakano Theater
Near the Toyota Meeting Hall
3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance
(Across the parking lot from the library)

Thursday, March 12, 2009
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, 2009 to
**Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th Street, Manhattan
Beach 90266**
Ph: 310-545-1087

Tri-League Lasagna Supper

No. of reservations _____ \$10.00 per person
Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s) _____
Phone _____

League _____

League of Women Voters of California News

League to Participate in Constitutional Convention Summit

LWVC has agreed to participate and speak at the Bay Area Council's "California Constitutional Convention Summit" on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. The Council states that the purpose of the summit is "to review research, discuss process, begin building a coalition to support a possible convention, and solicit ideas about what should be included in the convention." Please [see their web site](#) for specific details.



This summit will allow all interested parties who want to see substantial reform of the California Constitution to discuss priorities for change and the best methods for moving forward. The LWVC has no stand on the need for a convention at this point. For more information about the League's participation, please [contact Linda Craig](#).

Pros and Cons Discontinued

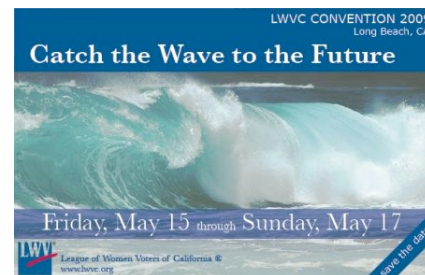
After analyzing our voter service products and services to determine the most effective programs LWVCA has decided to discontinue producing *Pros and Cons*. The Quick Reference Guide in the *Official Voter Information Guide* [produced by the state of California] adopted our best practices for succinct and clear voter information, and this publication is sent to every voter in California. . . . We believe we can better meet local needs by focusing on the free *Easy Voter Guide*, improving the *In Depth* and strengthening our online services.

Smart Voter's Valuable Election Coverage Continues



The League's preeminent online voter information service is again offering coverage of the early 2009 elections. Although Torrance has no election in March, voters in other cities served by the Torrance League that do have them are encouraged to check SmartVoter.org for information on candidates and issues on the March 3 election ballot.

Save the Dates



About the League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens 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 voter's service and citizen education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and on which they have come to consensus. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

League of Women Voters of the United States News

Background for the National Popular Vote Compact

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at www.lwv.org) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.

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The National Voter Suspended

(This is from an email dated February 10, 2009, from *The National Voter*.)

At its January meetings, the LWVUS Board of Directors decided to suspend publication of *The National Voter* magazine (paper and digital) until the League's finances are healthier. Publication costs for *The Voter* are prohibitive in a time of budget cutbacks. The Board and the LWVUS staff are committed to finding new ways to deliver information to our members and supporters. We will keep you informed as we move forward. Please read the [weekly Leaders' Updates](#) on our Web site. Please also share them with other members and remind them to send us their e-mail addresses. Questions and comments can be sent to Board Member Nancy Eitreim at neitreim@speakeasy.net.

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: ca.lwv.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.

2009 Calendar

Feb. 5, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (call for location)
Feb. 10, 7-9 pm	Consensus Meeting, National Popular Vote, Jane Arias' home
Feb. 14	League's birthday
Feb. 15, 2-4 pm	Chocolate Sunday, Linda Brown's Home
Feb. 23, 11-3 pm	Redistricting hearing, LA Central Library, Mark Taper Auditorium
Mar. 3	Elections, Carson, Gardena, LA and LA Community College Dist.
Mar. 5, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (call for location)
Mar. 12, 6 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Dinner, Nakano Theater, Torrance Civic Center
Mar. 13, 7:30-9:30 am	Assemblyman Lieu Breakfast Mtg., Ayres Hotel, Hawthorne
Mar. 14, 10-12 noon	LWVT Health Care Meeting, Lomita Kiwanis
Mar. 28, 9-12 noon	LWV LA County Convention, Pickwick Gardens, Burbank



League of Women Voters of Torrance

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

Post Office Box 964

Torrance, CA 90508

Address Service Requested

Time Dated