



January 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](mailto: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

My best wishes to all our members, hoping that your holidays were full of fun, friends and family.

As the New Year begins, LWVTorrance looks towards exciting activity. The January Brown Bag will be a lunch meeting where we will hear LWVC Government Director Chris Carson speak about Redistricting. In February, we will be celebrating the League's 88<sup>th</sup> Year with a Chocolate Sunday membership building party.

In March, the LWVT will join in the national Sunshine Week activities for the first time. We look forward to a lively forum and some informative activities about openness in government, how to engage the media, and opportunities to get involved in the community. The Annual Tri-League Lasagna Dinner has also been scheduled for March.

In April there will be a candidates' forum for the Torrance City Council and the County Ballot briefing for the June election.

May brings our Annual Meeting and the LWVC Council and June brings the LWVUS Convention in Portland, Oregon.

I am looking forward to seeing all of our members at most of these events.

*Barbara Barker*

## Board Highlights

The board voted to approve the program planning issues discussed at the December meeting (see page 3) and set Saturday, May 31, as the date for the annual meeting. Kay White will chair the annual meeting committee, which also includes Sandra Strong and Linda Brown.

*Kay White*

## LWV 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday Chocolate Sunday

The membership is being asked to meet a challenge with a great reward – chocolate! To celebrate the League of Women Voters' 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday, LWVTorrance is hosting a chocolate party with an "each one, reach one" theme. (See the accompanying flyer.) Invite your friends and acquaintances to our Chocolate Sunday. This is a social event with a membership-increasing motive (and a short membership appeal). It will be held from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, February 10, at the home of Linda Brown.

We are accepting donations of chocolate delights from our members. Please include your offer in your RSVP.

*Thanks*

The League thanks  
Mark and Janice Steffen  
for their very generous contribution.

## League of Women Voters of Torrance News

### LWVUS Storybank

As part of the Membership Initiative known as MAGIK, LWVUS has asked all members to submit to the National Website their stories of how they happened to join League or what League means to them. We are asking that, when you do this, you send a copy to the *Voter* editor so that your story can be published. The consultant of the Membership Initiative has asked for this element because they have found that people are more likely to join an organization if they can relate to at least one of the members. Please do your part at [www.lwv.org/storybank](http://www.lwv.org/storybank).

### The Practical Idealism of LWV

*By Barbara Barker*

While working with three young children and a husband at home, an acquaintance I had made through work told me about the League of Women Voters and a health study they were beginning, asking me to join and take part. I thought I shouldn't because of the family, then that I should because of me. I did. League gives me the opportunity to see myself as an important element of my own society, the opportunity to learn about societal issues in an unbiased way, and a voice that hopefully will impact improvements. I found my idealistic youth with a more mature practical process to bring about change. I have made great friendships and gained incredible resources. My children and husband have also developed a respect for the work of the League and in their adulthood have become members.

### More than a Friend

*By Linda Brown*

My good friend and neighbor, a long time member, insisted I join the League just after my mother died. I joined in August and was Membership Director the following May. League has been a wonderful and continuous learning experience.

### Empowerment

*By Venora Lee*

Why I belong to the League of Women Voters: The League empowers us to understand and work effectively with Government by giving us the tools of information and inspiration.

### Board of Directors 2007-08

President: Barbara Barker  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Pat Kromka  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Sue Herbers  
Secretary: Kay White  
Treasurer: Sandra Strong

#### Directors

Action: Lola Ungar  
Communications: Sydne Morrison  
Education: Mark Steffen  
Juvenile Justice: Vacant  
Government/Elections: Sue Herbers  
Membership: Venora Lee  
Observers: Vacant  
Program: Vacant  
Public Relations: Lola Ungar  
Social Policy: Barbara Barker  
Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz  
Voter Service: Pat Kromka

#### Off-Board Portfolios

Telephone Tree: Sydne Morrison  
Nominating Committee: Adriene Henry

#### Committees

Budget: Marcia Cribbs  
Fundraising: Janice Steffen

**Tri-League Liaison:** Linda Brown

### Correction and Apology

In the November *Voter* President's Message Lomita City Council candidate Ken Blackwood's last name was given incorrectly as Blackwell.

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

### Sunshine Week

Sunshine Week is March 16-22, 2008. This is a national initiative to open dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Journalists, civic groups, libraries, schools and others interested in the public's right to know have banded together to help promote this nonpartisan effort to enlighten and empower individuals to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and communities stronger. More information about the history of Sunshine Week is available at [www.sunshineweek.org](http://www.sunshineweek.org).

While we have not yet planned all the specific elements, we are thinking that hosting a forum of journalists and others involved in getting information to the public as well as a "citizens' fair" of information booths hosted by the political parties and special interest groups might entice the public to come out to get information and possibly join the groups that interest them.

The Membership Initiative Committee has extended invitations to each of the political parties to form a steering committee for this event.

### Program Planning and Holiday Potluck

Barbara Barker, Linda Brown, Mary Lou Busch, Patrick and Terry Furey, Eunice Hargrove, Adriene Henry, Pat Kromka, Lola Ungar, Kay White, LaVonne and Ken Wuertz were good company at the Holiday Potluck at Linda Brown's house in December. We ate delicious food and had good conversation. After dinner, we settled down to the Program Planning for National and County levels of LWV.

**LWVUS Program Planning:** It was generally agreed that we needed no new study. However, the members felt that there is a need to review the Water Resources position under Natural Resources to include wastewater recycling and to review the Waste Management position to include electronic waste, also under Natural Resources.

It was also agreed to propose Health Insurance and Immigration as areas of emphasis.

**County Program Planning:** There was discussion about the jail system, the commission system, election procedures and the breakup of Los Angeles County. It was the consensus not to change the current positions. It was also decided to propose the jail system as a new study and to propose homelessness as an area of emphasis for action under Social Policy.

### Social Policy

In Education, please take note that LWVC has taken an oppositional position on Proposition 92, Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees. Proposition 92 locks in new constitutional provisions that would mandate increased spending on K-14 education without regard to the overall state budget situation. It doesn't provide new revenues and thus it threatens our ability to address the state's other pressing needs. The League respects supporters' desire for adequate, stable funding and improved governance in the community college system. However, we cannot support further restrictions on the state's ability to fund all the programs that serve Californians, especially in our tight budget times.

In Health Care, we have a quandary and a very insecure future. The Assembly passed the Governor and Nuñez Bill, AB1 1 but it was not heard in the Senate and will be scheduled there no earlier than mid-January. This bill falls extremely short of the value in a single payer universal health bill and will have many negative impacts. The statewide steering committee comprised of the LWV, Health Care for All, the California Nurses Association, the California Physicians Alliance and others is taking a "wait and see" stance at the moment.

Senator Kuehl, the author of SB840, is the chair of the Senate Health Committee so she is very aware of its shortfalls. Expect that, as this bill progresses, there will be "calls to action" from the LWVC. Please respond quickly to these calls when you see them.

**Have a happy, healthy 2008!**

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

### **Dee Hardison Receives Award**

On Tuesday, December 18, Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto presented to former mayor and League member Dee Hardison, the prestigious Jared Sidney Torrance Award for lifetime commitment to the community. In the words of Mayor Scotto, "Torrance was lucky to have the right person at the right time; as mayor, Dee Hardison guided the City through rough times... She works as hard now as she did then to shape the Torrance community."



Among the projects completed during Dee Hardison's tenure as mayor were the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, the Sports Center in Wilson Park, the Veterans Memorial, and the expansion of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. Since leaving office she has continued serving the community as chair or member of numerous boards including the Blue Ribbon Committee on Ethics, Torrance Performing Arts Commission and the Harbor UCLA Community Alliance, which worked to successfully keep harbor UCLA Medical Center open.

The award was established in 1984 to recognize citizens who served the community through a lifetime of leadership and dedication.

*This information is from a City of Torrance press release.*

### **Torrance Strategic Plan Committee**

*By Lola Ungar*

Where is the City of Torrance now? What does the community want to accomplish or become over the next several years? What do I, myself, see in its future? These are some of the questions that I hope to answer in the next several months as a member of the Strategic Plan Committee.

The first two meetings of the Committee will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for an orientation of the strategic plan process and the proposed schedule, a review of the results of the City's data collection through phone surveys, the environmental scan, as well as the information gathered from focus groups. The consultants will also describe the methodologies used in gathering the information.

Additionally, we will take part in team-building exercises to help us understand the process and encourage cooperation towards achieving our goals.

As we go along, I will keep my eyes and ears perked and offer observations of the Committee's progress and further information as it becomes available.

### **Next Torrance Regular Election**

Although the Statewide Presidential Primary has been moved to February 5, the next regular Torrance Municipal Election is scheduled for June 3, 2008, for four (4) City Council seats. Councilmember McIntyre's resignation in June 2007 created a two-year term to be filled by election. The candidate receiving the fourth largest number of votes will take the two-year term. The election will be consolidated on the Los Angeles County ballot with the Statewide Primary Election.

## *League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County News*

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual SBCCOG General Assembly February 22, 2008**

#### **Bracing for the Boom: Are Cities Ready for Their Aging Population?**

Carson Community Center, 801 East Carson Street, Carson CA  
Time: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

This free event for elected officials, city staff, city commissioners, and local agencies will present key challenges and action steps that cities can take to plan for their aging "baby boomers". Come and assess your community's aging-readiness. Reservations are a must. Deadline for registration is February 15, 2008. To register, go to the South Bay Cities Council of Governments website at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org) or call Nicki at 424-558-0890 for information.

### **LWV/LAC Winter League Day**

County League Winter League Day on Saturday, January 26, will feature keynote speaker Dorothy Green, Heal the Bay Founder and California Water Quality Advocate, and a distinguished panel who will discuss water issues. The program, "The ~~Impending~~ Water Crisis in Southern California—It's Here!" and buffet luncheon will be at the Buena Vista Branch Library Meeting Room, 300 No. Buena Vista St., Burbank, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

For additional information and to register for the event, please see the accompanying flyer. The deadline for \$20 registration is January 18; it will be \$25 thereafter.



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

### **Invites You to a Brown Bag Meeting**

## **LEAGUE TAKES ON REDISTRICTING**

### *Speaker*

**Chris Carson  
LWVC Government Director**

### WHERE

**Katy Geissert Public Library  
(Torrance Public Library)  
3301 Torrance Blvd.**

### WHEN

**Tuesday, January 22, 2008  
11:30 – 1:00 P.M.**

**Coffee and cookies will be served**

## *League of Women Voters of California News*

### **February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election**

#### **WHERE WE STAND...**

*Go to the LWVC website to see a more detailed analysis.*

#### **NO ON PROPOSITION 91 -- Transportation**

The League supports stable funding for transportation projects, but Proposition 91 is not the way to provide it. Measures like this remove the flexibility that our representatives need in crafting state budgets, especially in difficult times. Even the proponents of Prop 91 urge a NO vote on this measure, recognizing that its aims were accomplished by Prop 1A of 2006.

#### **NO ON PROPOSITION 92 -- Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees**

Proposition 92 locks in new constitutional provisions that would mandate increased spending on K-14 education without regard to the overall state budget situation. It doesn't provide new revenues and thus it threatens our ability to address the state's other pressing needs. The League respects supporters' desire for adequate, stable funding and improved governance in the community college system. However, we cannot support further restrictions on the state's ability to fund all the programs that serve Californians, especially in our tight budget times.

#### **NEUTRAL ON PROPOSITION 93 -- Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office**

This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the structure of legislative term limits. Without a package that includes reform of the redistricting process, it does not achieve meaningful improvement of the functioning of our state legislature.

*Because League positions do not cover the issues in PROPS 94 through 97, Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts, the LWVC is taking no stand on those measures.*

**VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5**

### **The League, Governor Endorse California Voters FIRST Initiative**

The LWVC has joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California Common Cause, AARP, and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in launching a campaign to place a redistricting initiative on the November 2008 ballot. The California Voters FIRST initiative will reform the process for redrawing district lines for the state Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization following each census. At a press conference on December 3, LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama said:

"This proposal meets all the criteria that the League of Women Voters wants to see... League of Women Voters members around the state will work enthusiastically to help qualify this initiative and see that it is passed by the voters next November."

An overview of the initiative, its full text and a press release about the event are posted on the LWVC website.

It's full steam ahead for organizing the campaign, and **we [LWVC] need volunteers** -- lots of volunteers who will make a difference. The first phase is gathering signatures to qualify the initiative for the ballot. If you can join the effort, e-mail LWVC Advocacy Assistant Maggie Young [myoung@lwvc.org]. Sign on for an exciting, hands-on experience in making democracy work!

### **Mark Your Calendar . . .**

LWVC Convention **2009** will be held in Long Beach May 15-17, 2009.

*The items on this page are from LWVC sources.*

## League of Women Voters of the United States News

### Voters' Guides

LWVUS, through the Education Fund, has published the **2008 Presidential Primary Voters' Guide**, which consists of verbatim responses of candidates to a set of questions important to voters:

**FOSSIL FUELS:** What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels?

**IRAQ AND THE MIDDLE EAST:** What should be our short term and long term goals in Iraq and the Middle East?

**HEALTH COVERAGE:** What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

**CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMITS:** Please explain why you do or do not support setting spending limits for political campaigns and providing a set amount of public funding for all candidates who agree to take no private contributions.

**IMMIGRATION:** What should the federal government do about immigration?

Ground rules were as follows:

1. All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five issue specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria:

1) the candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his party's nomination for President; and

2) the candidate must have met the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC Web site as of October 5, 2007.

2. Responses were limited to 50 words and truncated after the 50th word.

3. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No Response Received" is printed.

The Guide is available in full online at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) or [lwv.vote411.org](http://lwv.vote411.org).

Also scheduled for January release is **Choosing the President 2008; A Citizen's Guide to the Electoral Process** (\$11.00), which "offers pointers for getting the most out of the upcoming election. It covers all of the major steps in the presidential election process and suggests what to look for during the debates, how to evaluate media coverage and ads, where to find useful information, and more.

"Read about the participants (the voters, candidates, parties, media, and who gives and who gets the money) and the process (the primaries and caucuses, nominating conventions, the general election campaign and Election Day)."

This Guide can be ordered online at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

#### 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](http://www.lwv.org)

State: [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)

County: [www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://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

Thu. Jan. 3, 7 pm	Board meeting (Call for location)
Tue. Jan. 22, 11:30-1 pm	Tri-League Brown Bag on redistricting, Katy Geissert Library
Sat. Jan. 26, 10-2 pm	County Winter League Day on the water crisis, Buena Vista Branch Library, Burbank
February	Black history month
Feb. 5	Presidential primary election, state ballot measures
Feb. 7, 7 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Feb. 10, 2-4 pm	LWV 88 <sup>th</sup> birthday party, Linda Brown's home
Feb. 14	LWV birthday
March	Women's history month
Mar. 6, 7 pm	Board meeting (Call for location)
Mar. 16-22	Sunshine Week
Mar. 29, 9:30-2 pm	County convention, Alhambra



**League of Women Voters of Torrance**

*Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance*

*Post Office Box 964*

*Torrance, CA 90508*

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Time Dated