



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

March 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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President's Message

This is Sunshine Week across the Nation. This national initiative is observed by several organizations including the League and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. It is dedicated to the importance of open government and freedom of information. There have been several articles in the *Daily Breeze* this week. We all know that an open and accountable government is the cornerstone of a healthy, vibrant democracy. If you look at League positions at the local, state and national levels, you will see that we have always included the values of transparency in government and the opportunity for public input on decisions. You can learn more at www.sunshineweek.org.

February was busy with a consensus meeting on the National Popular Vote, where we joined with the Beach Cities League to answer the prepared questions. In general, our discussion led us to reject the proposed Pact in favor of working toward a Constitutional Amendment to replace the Electoral College with a simple majority of the nationwide votes. We celebrated the League's 89th Birthday with our Chocolate Sunday. Later in the month, representatives from LWV Beach Cities and Torrance met with Representative Jane Harman's Deputy, Jessica Duboff. The report of this

meeting will be included in the next *Voter*.

March brought Municipal elections in Carson, Gardena, Los Angeles and the L.A. Community College District. The Tri-League Lasagna Dinner was a success with members from all three leagues gathering for dinner. They found the information about the County Registrar's operations interesting. The Health Care meeting was sparsely attended but very interesting. The League co-sponsored the Visions of Unity event at Torrance Memorial Hospital. The end of the month will bring us the LWV County Convention in Burbank.

Looking forward, you will soon be receiving your annual meeting kits in preparation for our May 30th meeting. The LWVCalifornia Convention, being held in Long Beach May 15-17 offers volunteer opportunities that allow you to attend some of the meetings.

We look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

Barbara Barker

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

Are You Golden?

LWVT is looking for members who have been in the League of Women Voters for 50 years or more. If this is you, please contact Barbara Barker at 310-530-3750. Not only will you be elevated into a special membership category, but we would also like to recognize you at the Annual Meeting.

League of Women Voters of Torrance News

Directors' Reports (Excerpts)

Government—Dee Hardison

LWV California recently spoke at the California Constitutional Convention Summit and at a joint hearing of the Assembly and Senate Elections Committees on reforming of the initiative process.

The Torrance City Council will be making appointments April 7 to the Ethics and Integrity Committee.

Natural Resources—Andrea Wagner

The LWVC supported AB32 and SB375, two landmark environmental bills that are in various stages of implementation.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) staff has posted meeting notes for the first Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting held February 3, 2009, and the first RTAC Staff Workgroup held on February 19. These documents are located at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc.sb375/rtac/meetings/meetings.htm>.

In addition to these ARB meetings, the Local Government Commission, a nonprofit organization, has announced six area workshops to be held between April 16 and July 30 open to the public, city planners, etc. Online registration and more information about the workshops will be available soon at www.lgc.org/events. The Los Angeles area workshop is June 25.

Social Policy—Barbara Barker

LWV Beach Cities is hosting a meeting entitled IT TAKES A VILLAGE to Raise a Foster Child Tuesday, April 21, from 7:00 to 8:45 pm at the Redondo Beach Main Library (303 N. Pacific Coast Highway. Park in lower level garage; take elevator to 2nd floor.)

Health Care: The LWVT Health Care Committee coordinated a general meeting March 14 at the Lomita-Harbor City Kiwanis Club. Doris Isolini Nelson spoke first about the current status of health care bills in California and the United States. The second speaker was Dr. Don McCanne who is very involved in Physicians for National Health Care, an organization that supports single payer style coverage. (See page 4 for details of the LWVT Health Care meeting.

In addition to our Health Care Meeting, California SB 840 has been reintroduced by Senator Mark Leno as SB810. The OneCare Now Campaign will include a number of activities, especially rallies, during the coming year. The main push will be toward endorsements from city councils, school boards, etc.

Board of Directors 2008-09

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2nd Vice President: Sue Herbers*
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Treasurer: Sandra Strong

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Government/Elections: Sue Herbers
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Natural Resources: Andrea Wagner
Observers: Vacant
Program: Vacant
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Social Policy: Barbara Barker
Voter Editor: LaVonne Wuertz*
Voter Service: Pat Kromka

Off-Board Portfolios

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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

Happy Women's History Month!

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

Barbara Barker's Storybank Article Featured on the LWVC Home Page!

Barbara Barker LWV of Torrance, CA

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 have become members in their adulthood.



Torrance Memorial Medical Center Conference Hall, brings together school district and government officials, along with parents, teachers and community members and organizations.

This year's Awards Reception was held on March 9. Seventeen young recipients from our 4 high schools answered the contest challenge with award winning sculpture, ceramics, painting, digital media, poetry and essay. In addition, there was a performance by the North High School Advanced Theatre Class.

Continuing sponsors are Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Volunteer Center, SouthBay-Harbor-Long Beach, Torrance Unified School District, Palos Verdes Chapter LINKS, Inc. and LWVT.

Ruth Vogel

Visions of Unity Contest and Awards Reception

About 14 years ago, LWVT joined the Human Relations Forum of Torrance, along with the City of Torrance, the Torrance Unified School District and 100+ civic organizations. The purpose of the HRFT was to identify current and emerging human relations challenges and to promote and foster appreciation of diversity and understanding among all who live and work here. Heidi Ashcraft, then a League member, TUSD School Board member and HRFT member, developed the Vision of Unity Arts Contest in conjunction with TUSD.

The purpose of the contest is to honor Martin Luther King and Black History Month by asking our Torrance high school students to create original artwork, essays, stories and poetry. Each year, the Contest Awards Reception, held at

Torrance Commissioner Certification Training

Training for commissioner aspirants will be held Wednesday March 25, 2009, from 6-8 pm in the Toyota Meeting Hall, Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Anyone interested should contact the City Clerk's Office at 310-618-2870 for more information, or click on [Commissioner Certification Training](#).

Welcome New Member

Hayley Amberg

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

Health Care

We had a very interesting health care meeting on Saturday, March 14th at the Lomita Kiwanis Hall. We were fortunate to have Doris Isolini Nelson who serves on the LWVUS



Health Care Project Task Force, provide information on the progress of the task force, and also, because she is active in Health Care for All-California, the outlook for our local efforts. She was joined by Dr. Don McCanne, a retired physician

who has served as President of the Physicians for National Health Program, and currently serves as their senior health policy fellow. He writes a daily Quote of the Day message on health policy issues that is distributed to physicians, legislators, reform activists, and any other individuals who would like to receive it. You can sign up at the www.pnhp.org website.

Ms Nelson announced that SB810 has been introduced in the California Senate by Senator Mark Leno. This is a duplicate of last year's SB840. It has 43 co-sponsors including Speaker Bass. The bill will be referred to Committee after March 30th. Meanwhile, the OneCareNow Campaign is gearing up to have 365 days of on-line and media awareness with 30 second videos each day.

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Related to the LWVUS Task Force, Ms. Nelson said that seven members had been appointed and had their first tele-conference meetings. They are currently working on the scope and design of the program to educate members. The Scope has already been approved by the LWVUS Board.

The articles will cover the subject matter of our current position, including: 1) Health care coverage for all; 2) Access to comprehensive, quality care; 3) Equitable financing; 4) Cost


control; and 5) Simplified administration. Within each of these broad categories are many sub-categories that will be addressed. The information will be written to make readers aware of the changes in health care since our 1993 position was developed. The articles will also help readers understand the inter-relatedness and complexity of health care issues, delivery and financing, and the challenges of addressing only some of the components of the system.

The LWVUS has joined the National Coalition on Health Care, which has not endorsed any model for reform but their criteria are similar to the LWVUS position. LWVUS has not taken a position on John Conyer's Single Payer bill (HR676) but several state leagues are requesting permission to advocate because their Leagues are so passionate about single payer and they do not want to lose momentum.

Dr. Don McCanne talked about the President's recent summit where every plan was on the table except single payer. After a grass roots effort that tied up the phone lines, the president of PNHP was invited, as well as Senator John Conyers. The President and his advisors have said that Congress must write the bill. He noted that Senator Kennedy sees this year as the window of opportunity and they are trying to write a bill by June, based on current health plans. Dr. McCanne noted that the big fight is whether we will create a competing government plan, which the insurance companies do not want. He predicts that the debate on single payer will shift to whether the new health plan will have a public option. He now advocates that we continue to work on single payer but also work toward

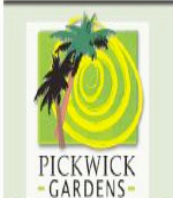
(Continued on p.5, Health Care)

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.

Smart Yard Expo

West Basin Municipal Water District is holding a Smart Yard Expo on Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can save money by making changes that reduce your water use in your yard. Attend West

Basin’s Smart Yard Expo to learn more about landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, water-efficient devices, and to meet landscaping companies and contractors that can help you make changes that will make a difference.” This event is FREE and will be held at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility at 1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo. To register, call the SBESC at 310-371-7222 or visit their website at www.sbesc.com.

LWV California Convention Comes to Long Beach

Lois Ledger of the Long Beach Area League is in charge of volunteers for the Convention at the Long Beach Airport Marriott May 15 - May 16. She has provided this information:

Volunteers get registration covered and can attend one workshop of their choice for each day worked. They cover their own meals or eat at the restaurant or bring their own. They should call Lois at 562 432-5822 or email her at lledger@verizon.net. She will assign a duty to their taste. You will discuss what is left and when you are attending. Assignments from checking credentials at the entrance to assisting with meals, serving in the market wares area in charge of LWV logo tops, working at registration, as workshop monitors, tellers and much more. Each volunteer will be assigned a number by Lois and there will be a cap provided.

Health Care [Cont. From p. 4]

having the new insurance program be a regulated health insurance utility to hold the reins on the insurance lobby.

The LWVT Health Committee is very appreciative of the insights provided by our speakers. We will continue working at the State and National levels and keep our membership informed.

Barbara Barker

League of Women Voters of California News

Convention 2009

Every two years, California LWV members meet in convention to conduct necessary business, lobby for changes, attend workshops and caucuses, mingle, and purchase League publications and gifts. Convention 2009 will take place May 15-17 in Long Beach at the beautiful Marriott Hotel, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive.

Local Leagues select voting delegates to attend Convention, but all League members are encouraged to attend and participate in Convention activities on one or more days. Non-delegates cannot vote on issues brought before the body during Plenary sessions.

Those who have attended previous conventions will tell you that it's a rewarding and exciting experience. Besides being forums for important decision making, these meetings provide an opportunity for members to experience the diversity and unity of League as they meet, talk and exchange ideas with members from other areas of the state.

Register online at the LWVC website. There will be no refund for cancellations after April 15.

League Speaks at Constitutional Convention Summit

The California Constitutional Convention Summit was held on Tuesday, February 24 in Sacramento, attracting more than 300 people, including state and local elected officials, political party representatives, academics, and citizen organizations. The summit was organized by the Bay Area Council and cosponsored by the LWVC and other organizations. The event focused on what changes were needed in the state constitution, and the process for convening a citizens' convention to make such changes.

Speaking on behalf of the LWVC, Advocacy Director [Linda Craig](#) proposed retaining the initiative process, but with preference for an indirect process including legislative review; extending or removing term limits; eliminating the two-thirds vote requirement for budget adoption, tax increases and removal of tax deductions and exclusions; and providing adequate revenue options for local governments so funding is aligned with provision of local services. She also cited the recent voter approval of redistricting reform. Others suggested a unicameral legislature, eliminating counties, establishing a proportional election system, and other major changes.

In order for voters to convene a constitutional convention, an initiative amendment to the Constitution would be required, and details about the scope of the convention and how delegates would be selected would then need to be set by another ballot measure. While the League will continue to participate in the dialogue, it has not decided at this time whether to support a convention.

([Trudy Schafer](#), LWVC Senior Director for Program, spoke at a joint hearing of the Assembly and Senate Elections committees on Wednesday, February 25 to express the League's views on reforming the initiative process.)

Statewide Special Election Called for May 19

In February, the Legislature and Governor finally reached agreement on a state budget. The budget agreement includes six funding changes and finance issues that require voter approval either because they amend the Constitution or because the original authorization was by a ballot initiative that prohibits change without voter approval. The Governor has called a Special Election for May 19, 2009 for voters to consider these measures.

The *In Depth* material on the ballot measures will be posted on the LWVC Web sites in early April. [SmartVoter.org](#) will continuously post updates on the propositions.

[All information on this page is from LWVC sources.]

League of Women Voters of the United States News

Broad-Based Coalition Outlines Global Climate Change Principles

[Preceding articles on this page are from LWVUS sources.]

About the League

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation 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 voters service and civic 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.

The League, as part of a broad-based coalition of groups, today [March 5] released principles for climate legislation that President Obama and Congress must heed in order to avoid the worst effects of global warming. [Click here](#) to read the press release and [here](#) to view the principles [or go to the LWVUS website—both are quite long.]

League Endorses Congressional Insider Trading Legislation

The League of Women Voters, along with coalition partners, endorsed the "Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act" in a letter [dated March 4] to the bill's co-sponsors. The legislation would prohibit members of Congress, congressional staff and other federal employees from using non-public information obtained through their official duties for personal gain in the stocks and commodities markets. It would also prohibit private individuals and firms who attempt to mine such information from public officials to use it for insider trading. [The full text is available on the LWVUS website.]

League Urges Federal Election Commission to Follow Law

In conjunction with several other reform organizations, LWVUS, issued a letter to the Federal Election Commission urging the Commission to follow the law in issuing regulations to implement campaign finance legislation. The letter gave examples of cases taking many years to resolve, if, indeed, they were resolved, and pointed out flaws in the Commission's structure making it largely ineffective. The group intends to urge President Obama to establish a new system for appointing commissioners "that have a demonstrated commitment to effective, non-partisan administration enforcement of the campaign finance laws."

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.

2008 Calendar

Mar 5, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Mar 9, 6:30 pm	Visions of Unity reception, Torrance Memorial Hospital
Mar 12, 6-8:45 pm	Tri-League Dinner, Nakano Theater, Torrance Civic Center
Mar 14, 10-12 pm	Health care meeting, Lomita Kiwanis Club
Mar 17-22	Sunshine Week
Mar 28, 9 am-noon	LWV/LACounty Convention, Pickwick Gardens, Burbank
Apr 2, 7-9 pm	Board Meeting (Call for location)
Apr 11, 9:30 am	County ballot briefing, Hollenbeck Home
Apr 21, 7-8:45 pm	Beach Cities, It Takes a Village, Redondo Beach main library
May 15-17	State convention, Long Beach
May 30, 8:30-11:30 am	Annual Meeting, Marie Callender's, Torrance



League of Women Voters of Torrance

Serving Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita and Torrance

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Address Service Requested

Time Dated