



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES

Members meet in units: Crenshaw • Culver City • Las Virgenes • Los Feliz/Silverlake • Pacific Palisades • S.F. North Valley • S.F. West Valley • Sherman Oaks • Sunland/Tujunga • University/Westside

Upcoming Events

June 5,

Board Meeting –

June 16

LWVLA Annual Meeting

July 21

LWV/LAC Summer League (“Popovers”)

July 28

Old/New Board Retreat

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization open to all men and women. The League’s purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

JUNE 2007

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

When members ‘flex their power in the tower’ to direct LWVLA’s future at annual meeting June 16, the decisions will need focus, follow-throughand a megaphone to be most effective. The megaphone is part of what our PROM (PR, Outreach, and Membership) committee has been designing and testing this year. PROM, formed in September, 2006, without a formal chair, is a collaborative effort of its members to create a plan for League mission to grow. PROM supports Program, Action and Voter Service by creating a way for a broader audience to know of and participate in League through substantive civic engagement. This megaphone is being used even as it is being engineered. Here’s a sampling of how PROM has accomplished this to date:

- Informing local media of events: e.g. PROM created media contact information and news release policies that are current, accessible and in use
- Learning from the pros: e.g. LWVLA is a member of the Print Interactive Radio and Television Education Society (PIRATES) a nonprofit whose mission is bringing nonprofits and the media together for the greater good of our community.
- Updating accurate and appealing LWVLA publications: e.g. updated membership envelope, LWVLA brochure and *Meaning of Membership* booklet.

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- Creating a signature VOTER: e.g. one special edition per year in color with photos and articles representative of League activity for distribution to the public.
- Reaching new audiences: e.g. an on-line newsletter, directed at non-members that is published every 6 weeks to highlight League events, services and positions.
- Exploring expansion of LWVLA web-site and internet presence.
- Developing new relationships with organizations: e.g. use our "Teaming Policy" to establish the framework of this outreach with each organization.
- Promoting public participation in monthly member meeting (unit) programs: e.g. established policy and resources for 'expanding' and 'traditional' units and for fielding speakers.
- Providing consistent help to portfolios for their projects: e.g. established a liaison person between PROM and *Running and Winning* project to assist in PR.

To trumpet League mission, the PROM megaphone is being raised more and more as its design is refined.

On behalf of LWVLA, I extend many thanks to the members leading this effort. Additionally, each member's personal voice raised on behalf of League mission provides the message and the intensity that a grassroots organization relies on to be heard not just loudly but sincerely. League is supported by each and all.

-- Liza White, LWVLA President

"Our word 'idiot' comes from the Greek name for the man who took no share in public matters."

Edith Hamilton

In *Make Gentle the Life of the World: The Vision of Robert E. Kennedy*

California Universal Healthcare Act Passed Senate Health Committee – SB 1014 Introduced

Senator Kuehl introduced SB 1014 Taxation: single payer health care coverage tax. This was introduced and heard in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee on April 25. Testimony was taken. A further hearing is to be set.

You can read both bills by going to www.senate. You can also read Senator Perata's SB 40. Go to www.assembly for Assemblymember Nuñez's SB 4. Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal is still not in bill form.

The ONECARENOW campaign continues its daily event in one part of the state or another. The League is directly involved with many of these events. Go to www.onecarenow.org to see pictures and read about these events. On August 11 a big rally is being planned in Los Angeles. You will be learning more about this soon.

-- Doris Isolini Nelson

Learn by Serving – Voter Service!

Voter Service (sometimes called Voter Education or Civic Education) is the great constant in League activity. Regardless of how our positions may change, and whether or not we decide to pursue action on an issue, Voter Service remains our foremost obligation to our members and to the general public.

Every League member can and should be involved in Voter Service to some degree: making sure our friends and neighbors know when an election is coming up; carrying voter registration materials, 'Pros & Cons' publications, and Smart Voter bookmarks so that we can seize any opportunity to inform voters and potential voters.

The 'Elevator Minute', a sort of guerilla technique for spreading the word about any subject, is a largely untapped Voter Service tool. Try it! Just say something or ask a question (to a companion or to nobody in particular) about elections or voting:

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"Did you know we have to vote on ballot measures in the presidential primary next February?" "Does your school district have an election this November?" "How about that low turnout in the L.A. election?" "Barely one person in ten is making our decisions for us!" "Who's your councilmember?"

Of course I'm hoping that your everyday involvement in simple Voter Service activity will whet your appetite for more challenging work such as speaking on ballot measures, organizing candidate forums, and developing our electronic outreach tools. With at least three statewide elections on the horizon, 2008 will be a big year for Voter Service and the rest of 2007 is barely enough time to get ready for it.

Let's be in touch.

-- Frances Talbott-White
Voter Service Director
talbwhite@yahoo.com
310-397-4970

LEADERS UPDATE

Taken from LWV website

D.C. Voting Rights Education Project Tool Kit Coming Soon! (NEW)

In the next few weeks, the D.C. Voting Rights Education Project Tool Kit will be online and ready to use! This comprehensive guide to public and media outreach for all Leagues will help build awareness about this priority League issue. The tool kit will include television and print ads, press releases, talking points, one-page information sheets and more! There are still a few \$1,000 grants available for this easy-to-do, important project! If you are interested in learning more about this project or applying, please contact [Robyn Kurland](#).

This is an excellent opportunity for new members, under seasoned guidance, to experience the League Way.

FLEX YOUR POWER IN THE TOWER

The Annual Meeting guides the League, determines the next two years' focus, and gives League members a chance to "flex their power." We expect an enthusiastic crowd at the Bradley Tower on top the Los Angeles City Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16. The view is spectacular; the food will be wonderful. You will enjoy visiting those you don't see as often as you might like; you will hear all the plans for next year. You may also vote on the necessary items that make the Los Angeles League run smoothly.

To enhance your understanding of the rationale behind the proposals, we are expanding the Annual Meeting kit information by attaching a comprehensive look at proposed programs from the perspective of their proponents. Some of the essential program details, such as the proposed rewording of positions, were complete in the kit, or, in the case of the Russian women visitation or Immigration, are covered in other articles in recent VOTERS. We suggest you examine all these proposals and all supplementary materials prior to the meeting. Contact either the proposed individual program chair or the Program Committee if you have any questions or comments.



The Annual Meeting theme continues with something new--a "Hot Topics" discussion at each of the luncheon tables. Now you will have a chance to "flex your power" through an in-depth discussion of the topic that most interests you. Please be sure to make your priority choices on the registration form to ensure you sit at the table of your choice.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

-- Program Planning Committee

IMMIGRATION ISSUES WORKSHOP

LWVLA and other local Leagues will be conducting a workshop on immigration and immigration issues at the LWV/LAC 2007 Annual Summer League Day-“Popovers in Pasadena.”

The information presented will address immigration issues in the Los Angeles County area and will complement the materials that are being produced by the LWVUS study. Topics will include: what to expect in the consensus questions and leaders guide, the impact of immigration on local business, the role of local police and sheriff in enforcing immigration laws, and the impact of immigration on local health services and education. This workshop will help everyone become better prepared for the consensus process in fall 2007.

See the flier in this VOTER to SIGN UP NOW or visit the LWVLA website, Calendar Section at www.lwvlosangeles.org, for more information.

‘Popovers in Pasadena’
LWV/LAC 2007 Annual Summer League Day
JULY 21, 2007 ... 9:30am to 2pm
Women’s City Club
160 N. Oakland, Pasadena

In spring 1999, outgoing LWV New Mexico President, Charlotte Zerof, commissioned LWVLA’s Frances Talbott-White to write the following verse. Charlotte wanted an appropriate exit piece to read at her final state convention. The verse subsequently appeared in the 1999 LWVC Convention Newsletter, the May/June 2000 LWVLA VOTER, and various other League publications around the country.

Originally, ‘League Fatigue’ included a lengthy footnote referring to the 1998 LWVUS Convention. We remove that rather dated portion and, on page 7, present you with the timeless essence of the piece.

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by self as a mighty one: The being a force of nature, instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailment and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die; for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I’ve got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

-- George Bernard Shaw

SAVE THE DATE:

On August 11, 2007, OneCareNow will celebrate their 365th day of statewide campaign for SB 840 (Kuehl) with a demonstration and a healthcare reform rally at Los Angeles City Hall. The goals are to gain publicity for the SB 840 single-payer bill, to expand the coalition and to engage public participation. There will be a 90 minute presentation on stage with sound and signage on the south lawn of the Los Angeles City Hall at Spring and 2nd Streets.

Invited speakers are Mayor Villaraigosa, State Senator Sheila Kuehl, and author of SB 840, Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Dolores Huerta, Maria Elena Durazo and Andrew McGuire. Lili Tomlin will guest star at this event.

Single-payer, universal health care is a high priority for the League of Women Voters of California. The League has been an active partner in the OneCareNow Campaign this past year. Senator Kuehl has reintroduced SB 840 this legislative session and it moved through the Senate Health Committee on April 18, 2007.

-- Cecilia Schlesinger

League Urges Senators to Support *Fair Elections Now Act* –S. 936

The League continued its important work on campaign finance reform last month, urging senators to support S. 936, the legislation introduced by Senators Durbin (D IL) and Spector (R PA) that would set up a voluntary public financing system for Senate elections.

April 19, 2007

TO: Members of the U.S. Senate

FROM: Mary G. Wilson, President

RE: S. 936, the Fair Elections Now Act

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support S. 936, the legislation introduced by Senators Durbin (D IL) and Spector (R PA) that would set up a voluntary public financing system for Senate elections.

The Fair Elections Now Act would give Senate candidates an alternative to the time-consuming special interest fundraising that dominates elections and undermines public confidence. Based on successful public financing systems in the states, S. 936 represents a major step forward in improving the performance and responsiveness of America's democratic system of government.

Today, candidates seek competitive advantage in huge fundraising operations that expose the candidates to special interest influence and take them away from the public's business and the public's concerns. In contrast, a public financing system provides for more equitable competition based on the voters' concerns and helps insulate the candidates -- and our political and governmental systems -- from corruption and the appearance of corruption. There are several key features of S. 936 that help ensure its effectiveness:

- Qualifying requirements that will provide funds to viable candidates while excluding candidates who lack broad-based support;
- Sufficient funding to ensure that candidates can get their messages to voters and run winning campaigns;
- Additional back-up funding for participating candidates who face opponents raising or spending large amounts of private funds; and
- Inclusion of both general and primary elections so that candidates need not be dependent on special interest fundraising.

Senators and Senate candidates spend too much time and attention raising campaign funds instead of attending to public concerns. The voters and the candidates would be better served by public financing. We urge your support for the Fair Elections Now Act, S. 936.

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of Heaven and Earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

Martin Luther King, Jr.



A Major Win for Democracy: League Strongly Applauds Passage of DC House Voting Rights Act

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today celebrated the passage of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act before the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation, which passed by a vote of 241-177, will grant the more than 600,000 citizens living in our nation's capital voting representation in the House.

“Finally, Congress has begun to right the wrong they've committed against DC citizens,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “As this legislation moves on to the Senate, the League will be behind lawmakers every step of the way, urging them to do the right thing. We will also look to President Bush to put his full backing behind this bill and provide equal rights to the half-million Americans at his doorstep.”

“For two hundred years, citizens living in our nation's capital have been denied their constitutional right to elect a voting member to the body that taxes them, makes their laws, and sends their men and women to war. That changes today.”

Since 1938, the League of Women Voters has worked to support self-government and representation in the District of Columbia. In the 110th Congress, the League has worked closely with lawmakers and other groups to encourage the immediate passage of long overdue legislation granting voting rights in the House of Representatives.

The “DC House Voting Rights Act,” sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R VA), provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for DC and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.

Food for Thought from LWVUS Past President Kay Maxwell

I call on each of you to think about the most meaningful part of your League experience. And think about how we can ensure that members 20 years from now will be able to say that their League experience has been as meaningful to them as ours has been to us.

Meeting in the Middle is our convention theme. We're meeting in the middle of the country, but we're also meeting to come to agreement on issues of importance to the League. We respect each other's views and expect others to respect ours. The League of Women Voters has always stood for honest debate and civil discourse. We take pride in the fact that the League is an organization within which one can engage in a rational and respectful discussion about an issue with those of opposing viewpoints. That is one of our treasured values.

We must meet in the middle to address challenges to the organization. I have mentioned just a few, but they are the ones I believe are essential to address if we are to grow and prosper. We can do it if we have the will to do it!

Let me close by sharing with you some food for thought that I'm sure you've all heard before. But it bears repeating and repeating:

*If you always think what you've
always thought,
Then you will always feel what you've
always felt.*

*If you always feel what you've
always felt,*

*Then you will always do what you've
always done.*

*If you always do what you've
always done,*

*Then you will always get what you have
always gotten.*

*If you always get what you've
always gotten,*

*Then you will always think what you've
always thought*

“HOT TOPICS” at LWVLA Annual Meeting

As you will see in many references in the VOTER as well as on the Registration Form included with your Annual Meeting kit, (included in May VOTER mailing) LWVLA will present opportunities for discussions with those proposing the new programs for 2007-2009. Seating at the meeting will be based upon the numbers who select each topic -- so register early to assure your selection.

ERRATA: In the list of “Hot Topics” from which to select your priorities, please note that Sustainable Communities/Global Warming is listed as both “E” and “H”. “H” should have been “Revolving Door/Police”. Please use this system when registering

A-Immigration	F-Housing/Homelessness
B-Local Education/LAUSD	G-Election Integrity/ Instant Runoff Voting
C-City Finance	H-Revolving Door/Police
D-Health Care	I-Campaign Finance
E-Sustainable Communities/ Global Warming	J-Special Events

MEMBERSHIP

We Welcome
 Danna Acosta-
 Bradley Tabach-Bank
 Deborah Catanese
 Jane E. Clark
 Anne Cohen
 Carol & Jack Jaffee
 Bobbie Plotkin
 Linda Tow

CIVIC SOCIETY
 Elizabeth Braude & Reed Glidden
 Barbara & Dan Horwitz
 Marilyn & Robert Johnson

TRIBUTES

To Sandy Wolber, for a Speedy Recovery from Connie Schiff

To Louise Ronne, In memory of her son David,. from the Cherry Blossom Garden Club

To Sunny Adler, In memory of Mort, from Nancy and Marvin Martin

To Robert Child & family, In memory of Charlotte, from Elaine Steiner

ODE ON LEAGUE FATIGUE *(continued from page 4)*

You may have been tired, you may have been weary
 (bones all achy, eyes all bleary),
 but til you've suffered League Fatigue you haven't got a clue
 to the way sheer exhaustion can fill you through and through.

League Fatigue can hit you anywhere along your way
 (in the middle of the night, or at the break of day)
 but if you're on the board, or in charge of a committee
 it won't give you any warning; it will strike you without pity.

You might be talking on the phone or sitting in a meeting,
 reading a book, riding a bike, or calmly eating,
 but League Fatigue will find you, creep into your brain,
 and flush your concentration right down the drain.

Senate bill, House bill, state legislation,
 county, city, EPA, or board of education,
 your eyes will glaze over at the mention of a law,
 and League Fatigue will grip you in its vise-like claw.

Wonder why your county, state, or national convention
 doesn't give a workshop on League Fatigue prevention?
 Well, those who haven't got it yet are out there on the floor,
 while those of us who have it bad are heading for the door.

Time heals wounds of many kinds. If League Fatigue is one,
 you might just see me here next year -- but now, I've gotta run.

-- Frances Talbott-White