

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

President's Message

WITH THE END of this month, another busy League year draws to a close. I'd like to invite you to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at the Pickwick Gardens in Burbank. I'm particularly pleased to announce that our speaker will be State Senator Jack Scott, of the 21st District. Please look for the flyer in this Voter, and send in your registrations as soon as possible. We're hoping for a wonderful turnout.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to put together the Annual Meeting, and I would like to thank Connie Wilson, who did the legwork to get us our place at the Pickwick Gardens. Connie works her magic in negotiating the best deals available, and I am very grateful to her for all of her hard work.

In keeping with our commitment to Voter Service, this month we have a number of voter registrations. We will be registering voters at the Burbank Adult Education School Career Day, Warner Bros. Studios, Chevy Chase Park in Atwater Village, and St. Joseph's Hospital.

Later this month, I will represent our League at the State Leadership Council in Sacramento from May 16-18. It is a time to get together with League members from all over the state of California and discuss state League policy.

Next month, I will have the privilege of representing our League at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon, from June 13-17. I went to the last convention in Minneapolis two years ago, and was amazed by the depth and breath of the intellect and energy of League members throughout the country. It truly is a formidable bunch of people, and it was a delight to be there. I am looking forward to the June convention with great anticipation, and want to thank the League for making this possible. Monica Marquez

2008 Calendar May

Thursday
May 22

Women at the Table Event

The Glendale Commission on the Status of Women and the Glendale City Clerk, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters-Glendale/Burbank, invite you to attend an informative evening session on the basics of serving on Boards and Commission in the City of Glendale. Topics include: why women's political participation matters, the process of appointment in the City of Glendale, and a Q&A period with current City commissioners. For more information, visit www.ci.glendale.ca.us/women or call Lana Haddad at 818-548-4844

Saturday
May 31

Annual Meeting
See flyer on page 2

Tuesday
June 3

Election Day
Statewide Primary

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Glendale/Burbank

Annual Meeting

Keynote Speaker

Jack Scott

State Senator, 21st District

Saturday, May 31, 2008

Regency Room
Pickwick Gardens
1001 Riverside Drive
Burbank CA 91506

Registration
and Coffee: 9:30 am
Meeting: 10:00 am
Lunch: 11:45 am
Fee: \$30.00
RSVP: by Saturday, May 24

Menu:

Herb Crusted Chicken Breast with Marsala Cream Sauce
(Pan seared crusted chicken breast served with creamy Marsala sauce)
Roasted Red Bliss Buttery Potatoes
Salad with choice of dressings
Fresh Vegetables
Rolls with churned butter
Iced Tea, Regular or Decaf Coffee
Dessert: Lemon Raspberry Cake
(Lemon cake swirled with raspberry sauce)

Directions:

Take the Ventura Freeway (134) West to the Golden State Freeway (5) North.
Take the Golden State Freeway North towards Sacramento, exit Western Avenue, West off ramp. Follow Western to Riverside. Make a right onto Riverside.
Pickwick is on the corner of Main Street and Riverside

Mail your check to: Vera Naylor 7714 Via Capri Burbank CA 91504

Yes! I am coming to the Annual Meeting. Enclosed is _____ for _____ reservations.

I am allergic to nuts.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

LWVUS Storybank

Submit Your Personal League Story

As part of the LWV Membership Recruitment Initiative, LWVUS has developed a Storybank to collect and house the wonderful stories of achievement from League members across the country. Topics include the following:

- What motivated me to join the League of Women Voters
- What being a League of Women Voters member means to me
- How my work with the League has impacted my community
- How being a member has given me skills/knowledge that has enhanced my career/life

These personal stories will convey a more intimate, portrait of the League to those thinking about joining the organization. The League needs your personal stories on what League membership has meant to you to make the Storybank a success.

To submit your story and read the stories of other League members from across the country, go to the LWVUS web site (www.lwvus.org), click on “For Members,” then click on “Membership Recruitment Initiative.” You will see several links on this page for the “The Storybank.”

If you would like to submit your story for publication in the Glendale/Burbank LWV Voter, please send it to Linda Lammers via e-mail (linda1106@sbcglobal.net).

Why I Joined the League

By Dionisia Rodriguez, Glendale/Burbank LWV

My mother’s death in 2001 devastated me emotionally, especially considering that my father died in 2000 and my sister-in-law in 1999. A co-worker Wendy Phillips (State League secretary) suggested that a way to get out of the depression is to be involved and invited me to a League meeting. At that meeting, I was introduced to Chris Carson, then president of the Glendale/Burbank League. I attended a meeting, put in my application and the next thing I knew I was a Board member. The League is a sure cure for my blues—cheaper and more fun than a therapist.

The history of the League will continue in the next issue of the Voter concluding with the 21st Century. The history was compiled by Kay J. Maxwell.

New LWVUS Immigration Policy

The LWVUS has announced its official position on immigration reform policy. The full immigration policy approved by the national League's Board of Directors in March was studied by the organization's membership for more than eighteen months. The policy achieved member consensus through a survey of the nearly 850 local Leagues.

THE LEAGUE of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families, meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States, and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WHERE WE STAND

JUNE 3, 2008 ELECTION

PROP 98 Deceptive Measure Would Abolish Rent Control and OPPOSE
Harm Environmental Protection.

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 98 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contributed most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. In addition, Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.

PROP 99 Homeowners Protection Act. SUPPORT

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners, without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 3, 2008!

Pass the Recycled Water, Please

By John D. Sullivan, Natural Resources Director, LWC/LAC

One could argue that water managers in California have done a good job delivering water to consumers. Most of us take for granted that water will run out of the tap or shower when we turn it on. There are, unfortunately, more and more warning signals that this comfortable state of affairs will not last forever and perhaps not even into the next decade. In earlier articles, we noted the decision by the courts to reduce pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect the Delta smelt (a fish on the Endangered Species List). Recently, news reports signaled more bad news.

The Board of the Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD) voted to adopt a drought plan. (L.A. Times, 2/13/08.) Critics of the plan claim that, in a drought, high-income communities would easily afford the costs of additional water while low-income communities would not. The implication is that some people will have plenty of water and others will not. Critics also claim that the plan will favor areas experiencing high levels of growth, such as the Inland Empire, while more established communities will suffer. It is clear that in a severe drought, it will be necessary to make decisions about who gets water and who does not. The MWD plan is one approach, but one that will likely be controversial if it is implemented.

A report was also issued about possible future problems with Lake Mead on the Colorado River, a source of water for 22 million people in the Southwest. (N.Y. Times, 2/13/08.) The study suggested that there is a 10% chance that the Lake will go dry by 2014 and a 50% chance that the Lake will go dry by 2021. Not all observers agree with the results of this study, but many agree with an important part of it: the Colorado River system is experiencing a deficit of water (extractions over replenishment rates) of one million acre-feet each year. If this is true, it is clearly not a sustainable water management approach.

This naturally raises the question regarding new sources of water: are there any? Conservation is one important source, and recycling is another. It is instructive to look at efforts in Los Angeles and Orange Counties to utilize treated waste water as a source of “new” water. The Orange County Water District recently implemented its Groundwater Replenishment System (GWR). The GWR has the capacity to generate about 70 million gallons per day (MGD) of highly treated water from sewer water. Of this total, 35 MGD are injected into the ground near the coast to serve as a barrier that prevents ocean water from infiltrating into the groundwater. The remaining amount, about 35 MGD, is pumped up to Anaheim to the District’s spreading ground for injection back into the aquifer. Thus, water used once is cleaned for reuse again, and possibly, again.

The Sanitation Districts of L. A. County (SDLAC) currently operate 11 waste water facilities where sewer water is treated either for reuse or discharge to the ocean. (See the SDLAC Web site at <http://www.lacsd.org/> and D. Green, *Managing Water: Avoiding Crisis in California*, UC Press, chapter 3.) In 2004-05, the SDLAC produced approximately 517 million gallons per day or 579,595 acre-feet per year. Of the 517

LESS WATER continued on page 7

MGD, about 192 MGD were available for reuse, or about 37%. The remaining treated water was discharged to the ocean.

It is clear from the SDLAC Web site that the amount discharged to the ocean has been declining each year since about 1970. Hence, more reclaimed water is applied to various uses. In addition, the number of reuse sites has climbed to 500 from 156 in 1990. The uses of this reclaimed water include landscaping (19.1%), industrial (9.3%), agriculture (13.4%), environmental (13.9%), and groundwater recharge (44.3%). It is important to note that the cost of this reclaimed water is less to the end user than is potable water. For example, the City of Cerritos paid \$492.22 for an acre-foot of potable water in 2004-05 while reclaimed water cost it \$261.36 an acre-foot. That represented approximately a 47% discount in the purchase of reclaimed water for the City of Cerritos.

Both Orange and L.A. counties are clearly moving in the right direction in their efforts to reuse reclaimed water both for potable and non-potable uses. Rivers may run low, lakes may partially evaporate, but we still have opportunities to reuse water we have used already. It is cheaper than imported water and at least as reliable. The trick will be to continue to identify new ways to use this water. It will likely also become imperative that we all consider individual efforts within our homes to take “grey” water—water used once in washing machines and dishwashers—and apply it to our gardens for irrigation purposes. Increased self-sufficiency by counties will help, but increased self-sufficiency by homeowners will also help us to withstand the shocks to our water supply system that come from droughts, earthquakes and other natural disasters.



Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All Citizens of voting age are welcome. Associate Membership is open to all others.

YES! I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (please check one or more of the following)

- \$60.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$100.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership

Name/Names _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

I would like to receive my VOTER by email.

My email address is _____

Make check payable to League of Women Voters. Mail to Vera Naylor, 7714 Via Capri, Burbank CA 91504

I am unable to join League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

Gifts made payable to “LWV Education Fund” are tax deductible.

The Voter

THE VOTER IS PUBLISHED nine times a year by the League of Women Voter of Glendale/Burbank, California.

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Editor: Linda Lammers

Production: Carole Dougherty

Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education advocacy.

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. 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.

Please remember
the League in your
will.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BURBANK/GLENDALE

VOTER

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League websites:
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<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

LWV California
<http://www.ca.LWV.org>

LWV United States
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