

# Voter



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK**

**March 2010**

*The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
is where hands-on work to safeguard  
democracy leads to civic improvement.*

## **JOIN US**

**March 10 6:30 pm**  
**Preparation Meeting for  
Candidates' Forum**  
at the home of Joan Hardie.  
Call for directions  
(818) 760-3667.

**March 18 6:30 pm**  
**Program Planning Meeting  
and Dinner.**  
House of Joy,  
818 N. Pacific Ave. Glendale.

**March 20 8am -1pm**  
**Voter Registration**  
Burbank Farmer's Market, on  
Orange Grove Ave.  
Behind Burbank City Hall.

**March 24 7pm**  
**Candidates' Forum 43rd  
Assembly District**  
Burbank City Hall

**March 27 9:15 am -2pm**  
**LWV LAC Convention**  
Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson St., Carson

<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

## **Co-President's Message**

Chris Carson

### **CHARTING A COURSE FOR OUR LOCAL LEAGUE**

**M**ARCH is the month we gather to discuss where we want our League to go in the next year. This year we're going to combine a great dinner at the **House of Joy** with a planning session. What goes on? Well we look ahead to what our League needs to do in the next year and then decide how to maximize that work for the League's benefit. After that we brainstorm about what else we might like to do. This year is packed with elections and all the work that goes with them. State and local candidates forums, ballot measure presentations, voter registration.

**Do you have any ideas about how we might do things differently?**

**Reach more people in our community?**

**Involve more League members in our work?**

If you're ready to make a commitment to helping the League achieve maximum impact in our Voter Service and other work this coming year, join us for dinner and brainstorming and sign up for a lot of fun.



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
GLENDALE/BURBANK

*Invites you to*

Candidates' Forum for the  
43rd California State  
Assembly District

**The public is invited to attend.**

**Ask a question of the Candidates:**

Written questions can be submitted at the Forum. Questions can also be submitted via telephone (818) 247-2407 or via our website [lwvglendaleburbank.org](http://lwvglendaleburbank.org)

**When:** March 24, 2010 7:00 pm

**Where:** Burbank City Council Chambers  
275 E. Olive Ave., Burbank, CA

**Parking:** Behind City Hall,  
enter on Orange Grove

The forum will be recorded and televised live on Burbank TV6 and repeated prior to the election



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

**W**e celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 70th Anniversary of our Glendale/Burbank League on February 13, 2010.

Although it had rained heavily the day before, the sun came out for our celebration at the beautiful and lush Los Angeles River Center and Gardens. Our inspiring speaker was Los Angeles County Counsel Andrea Ordin. A three piece jazz band played as we enjoyed luncheon, cake and a champagne toast.

1. Chris Carson offers the champagne toast.
2. Treasurer Vera Naylor and member Arline Ames.
3. Board Member Georganne Thomsen and member Peggy Steppe.



## CANDIDATES' FORUM

The League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank will hold a Candidates' Forum for the open seat in the 43rd State Assembly District on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7pm in the Burbank City Council Chambers.

The program will be televised live on Burbank TV6 and repeated often prior to the Special Election set for April 13, 2010. The League thanks the City of Burbank for its support. The public is invited to attend and to submit written questions at the Forum. If you have questions for the candidates, please submit them via our website [www.lwvglendaleburbank.org](http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org), or the League phone at (818) 247-2407.



**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 • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 27, 2010**

**9:15 AM – 2:00 PM**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT**

**MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**



Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has represented the nearly 2.3 million people of the Second District on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors since December 2008. During his first year in office, he shepherded through an agreement with the University of California to provide medical services at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital which is scheduled to open in late 2012. He also persuaded the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to fund a light rail system from Crenshaw Boulevard to Los Angeles International Airport and move up the opening from 2029 to as early as 2016. Together, the hospital and rail projects will generate more than \$2 billion in spending and create over 16,000 jobs.

**Carson Community Center  
801 E. Carson Street  
Carson, CA 90745**

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 Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please highlight delegates names with a (D).**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is March 16, 2010**

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

**If Postmarked After March 16th**  
Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Entrees # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Entrees # \_\_\_\_\_ Note Food Allergies # \_\_\_\_\_

## MESSAGE

# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LWV CALIFORNIA

**T**his February marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. How did the League of 1920 differ from our organization today? What was it like to be a member in those early days?

I unexpectedly found some answers when I came across my old copy of Eleanor and Franklin, Joseph P. Lash's biography of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, that I'd read so avidly in my teens. As I leafed through it, I saw the words "League of Women Voters" and took a closer look.

I knew Eleanor Roosevelt was an LWV member, but I did not know what an active member she was. I found it striking that the League activities she took on, and the fulfillment she found in them, are as recognizable today as they were 90 years ago.

In 1920, Eleanor was 36 years old, married, a mother of five. She was, according to Lash, beginning to forge an identity that extended beyond her privileged upbringing and the role of supportive wife to a rising political star. "She wanted to be fully involved – with work, with people." So she joined the League of Women Voters.

After Eleanor joined, the chairman of the New York State League asked her to serve on the state board and chair the legislative committee. I had to laugh. Yes, even 90 years ago Leagues got hold of brand new members and immediately put them on the board! Her first job was to identify bills of interest to the League. She worked with two other members whose "careful, documented workmanship shaped Eleanor's standards in her approach to public issues and helped her to do serious, sustained work." We do the same kind of careful bill tracking and legislative analysis today, and our work is still infused with those same high standards and the process of learning through mentoring.

In January 1921, Eleanor attended the state League convention as a delegate from Dutchess County. According to Lash, the Republican political machine was still smarting from the LWV's campaign against anti-suffrage Senator Wadsworth. Regulars of both parties thought the League needed to be put in its place. The new governor, Nathan Miller, a Republican, "outraged the convention with a denunciation of the league as a menace to American institutions because of its social-welfare program and lobbying activities." Although Republicans outnumbered Democrats 5 to 1 at the state convention, the League, led by Narcissa Vanderlip, a Republican, protested the governor's

speech and reaffirmed "the right of women to work as a group outside the political party for political measures." I can clearly see that our "political, but not partisan" nature was apparent from the start; the League's lobbying activities discomfited the political establishment even then; and members voted their consciences, showing a fine disregard for party loyalties, just as they do now.

As Lash noted, although Eleanor had long followed politics as an observer, the League was her "baptism in politics."

When the League decided to sponsor a bill requiring the political parties to give equal representation to men and women at all levels, it was her job to get the legislation drafted, find bipartisan support, and fight amendments to weaken it. Although speaking in public was agony for her, she persevered, giving reports to the state convention and speaking at local League meetings. As we know, she overcame her fears and became a noted public speaker. Today, in the same way, League members learn the political landscape and the workings of government, and become adept at legislative analysis and lobbying. And, just as Eleanor did, we grow personally and professionally through our League work.

**[Eleanor Roosevelt]  
wanted to be fully  
involved – with  
work, with people."  
So she joined the  
League of Women  
Voters.**

Joseph P. Lash

Eleanor was a local League delegate to the 1921 national convention in Cleveland. Twenty years later, as First Lady, she addressed the 1940 LWVUS convention and recalled the speech of Minnie Fisher Cunningham of Texas, which made her feel "that you had no right to be a slacker as a citizen, you had no right not to take an active part in what was happening to your country as a whole." Some 90 years later, the League of Women Voters still lives those ideals.

Happy 90th birthday, League of Women Voters. Here's to the next 90 years!

Janis R. Hirohama, President  
LWV California

## Single Payer Health Care Bill Passed by the Senate

On January 28, 2010, SB 810 (Leno) passed from the Senate to the Assembly with a 22-14 vote along party lines. One Democrat and all the Republican senators voted against the bill. The legislation will continue to work its way through the Assembly and to the governor's desk.

SB 810 guarantees every Californian comprehensive and affordable health care and creates no new spending. Says Senator Leno, "At a time when millions of Californians are at risk of losing their health coverage and employers are being strangled by rising premiums, there is no choice but to stand up to insurance companies that squander 30 percent of every health care dollar on administrative overhead."

For more than ten years, the League of Women Voters of California has worked with coalition partners to pass a single payer health care system and to build a grassroots movement, which now has millions of supporters. We will continue to work and grow until we have the might to pass single payer in California and to override any veto and to block any initiative that seeks to overturn the passage of single payer legislation.

## Green Corner

**California native plants are a beautiful way to conserve water and decorate the landscape. Salvia has a sweet earthy smell, and thrives in our local environment.**

## NEWS ON LEAGUE ADVOCACY

### "Doing nothing not an option" Congress Must Act Quickly in Aftermath of *Citizens United* Decision

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters testified before the Committee on House Administration in a hearing entitled Defining the Future of Campaign Finance in an Age of Supreme Court Activism. At the U.S. congressional hearing, Mary G. Wilson, the national League president, told committee members that they must pass legislation governing corporate and union spending quickly, in order for it to take effect for the 2010 elections.

"The Court's majority decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* was fundamentally wrong and a tragic mistake. But this is the decision of the Court," said Wilson. "Congress needs to respond now, recognizing its own authority and responsibility to uphold the Constitution. Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy."

"The Court's decision in *Citizens United* upends basic campaign finance law that has been in place for a century. It changes the foundation on which decades of congressional enactments on money in elections are built. Such a fundamental change requires a strong response from Congress and the Executive."

The League supports numerous concepts moving forward in this post-*Citizens United* context; however, Wilson stressed the urgency in doing something now. "After *Citizens United*, we urgently need enhanced disclosure. This is the most basic step toward protecting the role of the voter in making decisions in elections," stated Wilson. "It is now possible for corporations to secretly provide funds that another corporation uses to intervene in an election through independent expenditures. This is not acceptable. The League of Women Voters supports strong disclosure requirements for both those who receive election funds and those who provide such funds."

"After providing enhanced disclosure, the next most important step for Congress is to do no further harm. A decision as far-reaching in its implications as *Citizens United* will provoke a number of proposals that, we believe, could make our election system and government processes even worse," Wilson argued. "We need fair elections, not greater involvement of big money in elections and government. Each of these steps – such as altering contribution limits to candidates and PACs or allowing corporation and unions to once again donate huge sums to political parties – would increase corruption or the appearance of corruption and further distort our political processes."

Wilson pointed to a number of other proposals – from new controls on foreign corporations to public financing – that Congress should consider in seeking to block corruption of American democracy.

LWV GLENDALE/BURBANK is pleased to announce notecards designed especially for us are now available.

Local artist Robin Palanker features five local women. All proceeds benefit LWV Glendale/Burbank

Set includes 10 cards, on 80 lb. paper two each of 5 figures LWVG/B logo on the back

\$13.00 per set, 2 sets for \$25.00 includes tax and handling

The supply is limited. To order, send the tearoff with your check.



PLEASE mail check payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK,  
PO Box 21010, Glendale CA 91221-5110

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ sets of notecards.



## 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.

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 the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Gifts made payable to the "LWV Education Fund" are tax deductible.**

# Voter

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank, California

**Co-Presidents:** Chris Carson  
Joan Hardie  
**Editor:** Monica Marquez  
**Production:** Carole Dougherty  
**Circulation:** Anna Rundle

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Member  
Janet Peterson

Welcome back  
Stephanie Landregan and  
Sally Hoover

## IN MEMORIAM

We regret to announce the passing of our Secretary Mary Dickson's father, Harry LePique. Our thoughts are with Mary at this difficult time.

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Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4



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## LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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League websites:  
LWV Glendale/Burbank  
<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

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

LWV United States  
<http://www.LWV.org>

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