

League of Women Voters

Glendale/Burbank

President's Message

Monica Marquez

June 2005 Calendar

Saturday
June 25

**Local Voices;
Citizen Conversations
on Civil Liberties and
Secure Communities**
LACC

See article on page 3

Saturday
July 23

Popovers in Pasadena
Women's City Club
See flyer on page 4

Wednesday
August 3

**Kick Off Party for Local
Election Systems Study**
145 San Fernando Blvd
Burbank
5-7 pm

IT IS AN INCREDIBLE honor to be elected president of the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank.

We have just come off a tremendously successful year in which the League has sponsored multiple, highly productive forums which have introduced both candidates and agendas to the voting public. And for that success, we must thank the inspired and inspiring leadership of Chris Carson, who managed to get all the tough jobs done while arranging to make the work look easy.

Actually, it is Chris' assurance that, with the dependable help of all the League members, the position of President is truly not an arduous task. I'll let you know more about that next year at this time.

I am aware that, while I have been a member of the League for less than two years, there are many among us who have been involved in this work for 20, 30, even 40 years. For this I honor you. It is your work, your wisdom and your

talents that have kept this organization thriving.

Since, by comparison, I am so new to the League, I thought I should talk a bit about my background and about how I found the League.

I was born in Santa Monica and grew up in the San Fernando Valley. I voted here for the first time in 1978 and in the years that followed, became an absentee

voter while I pursued my education. That took me first to Pomona College, then to Madrid, Spain and on to Boston College Law School.

Everywhere I went, I was sure to vote. I have always been an avid voter. But I have also been a confused voter at times, feeling totally unprepared to take a stand on measures I didn't fully understand.

But, everywhere I went, I was sure to vote. I have always been an avid voter. But I have also been a confused voter at times, feeling totally unprepared to take a stand on measures I didn't fully understand.

One particular concern for me has been voting for judges. As a lawyer, I knew that judges were extremely important, but as a voter, I had no idea for whom to vote. What did they stand for? What did they believe in? Who knew? So I got a great idea! I'd just call them up and ask them directly why I should vote for them. I would then put the results in a chart and pass it out to friends and family.

Well, a few extremely surprised judge candidates later, I had my chart. It was kind of a lonely endeavor, though, as I didn't know anyone who shared my obsession with finding out about the candidates.

But then, along came the internet, and suddenly my research became easy. I just put in the name, and viola! Up came the information on a web site called Smart Voter. It was all there. All nonpartisan. And it was run by the League of Women Voters.

What an eye opener! All this time there was a group dedicated to getting information to voters—and I hadn't even known about it. I clicked around the League of Women Voters site and found a link to Glendale/Burbank, the League closest to my home in North Hollywood. I had to join. I printed out the application and put the words on it that would change my life. **I want to volunteer.**

I thought that the League might need help stuffing envelopes. Instead, Chris invited me to a board meeting and all of a sudden I had a title. I was **THE WEBMASTER!**

Next, under the guidance of Arline Ames, I found myself in **VOTER SERVICE**. Next thing I knew, I was registering voters!

Then, with the help of many dedicated League members, I helped put on the very successful Candidates' Forums in Glendale. It was an awesome responsibility. There were 17 candidates for four City Council seats. And we had to find room for all of them at a table that was meant to seat 12. It was a tight squeeze, but we did it!

I learned more about the League as I went along. I learned about its 80 year history as a non partisan organization dedicated to educating voters, and about its commitment to advocacy on issues.

I learned more about the League as I went along. I learned about its 80 year history as a non partisan organization dedicated to educating voters, and about its commitment to advocacy on issues. I learned that volunteering for the League is not about stuffing envelopes. It's about getting out into the community and making a difference.

It's about keeping ourselves informed—and then informing others.

I want to keep the momentum going as we head into the next year. We have a lot to look forward to, including a project familiar to many of you, but new to me—a study. We want to look at the election systems in Burbank and Glendale to determine how best to assure the voters' mandate be respected. Another project I find particularly fascinating is a plan to contact local schools and talk to government students about how—any why—to vote. We want to assure the participation of the next generation of voters.

I want to thank you for allowing me to go on this journey, and I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year.



The League of Women Voters

Invites you to a Community Dialogue

Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secure Communities

Los Angeles City College
Holmes Hall
855 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles 90029
June 25, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Box lunches will be provided

Meet other residents of our community and discuss issues relating to civil liberties and homeland security. Discussion topics will include; individual experiences with these subjects, perceptions of risk and safety and current public policy. Add your voice to a national report that the League will send to Congress and the nation.

The program will also include invited speakers who will discuss security risks in Southern California, the fiscal impact of homeland security, the USA Patriot Act, and current legislation

**Free parking in Snyder Field Staff/Faculty Parking Lot, enter off Vermont Ave.
LACC is located at the Vermont/Santa Monica stop on the Metro Red Line**

Facilities are wheelchair accessible.

RSVP's by June 20th are required
Requests for attendance will be filled on a first come first served basis
To RSVP, Call the League of Women Voters (213) 368 1616 or email <http://www.lwvlosangeles.org/>.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government.

This program is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund through a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

****POPOVERS**IN**PASADENA****

LWV-LACounty*SUMMER LEAGUE DAY***Saturday, JULY 23**

**Women's City Club
160 North Oakland
Pasadena**

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Meeting: 10 a.m.

**Cost: \$25 if RSVP is postmarked by July 11
\$30 if RSVP is postmarked after July 11 and received by July 15**

(Cost includes morning coffee/tea and lunch)

**Workshops: Trying to Achieve Health Care for All
Preschool for All Act (Pre-K Initiative)
Affordable Housing Options and Legislation
Post LWVC Convention Education Study Update and Pending Action**

***Keynote Address: Los Angeles County Health Care System Update
(Emphases: King/Drew Medical Center and Measure B)***

**League Members Getting Acquainted and Reacquainted
Luncheon Opportunities to Expand the Conversations
(eg. Workshop Topics: Mental Health Services Act, Services Planning Areas,
Parental Notification Initiative,...)**

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**Send reservation and check, payable to LWV/LACo, to:
LWV/LACo Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501**

Name:_____

League:_____

For vegetarian lunch, check here:_____

If allergic to (edible) nuts, check here:_____

Local League Study Launched

At our Annual Meeting, the delegates voted to conduct a **Study of the Elections Systems in Glendale and Burbank**. So—what’s this all about? And why should you get excited about it?



Do you care about how your representatives are elected? Do you wonder if the low voter turnout in Glendale and Burbank could be halted? Is there a reasonable alternative to Glendale’s current system of electing Council members to office with 8% of the vote? Does Burbank really have to spend a lot of money and time on run-off elections? If you have thought about these questions, then this is “your” study. It doesn’t get more local – and vital – than this. We will be taking a comprehensive look at how our two cities elect people to office. We’ll look at how we do it now; how other cities of our size do it; what alternatives to the current situation might be out there.

This is a terrific way to learn more about how your city’s elections system works – and have some fun. It’s so easy to be a part of it. Do you like to do Internet research? Plenty of opportunities to help out. Would you like to take a short jaunt to some of our neighboring cities to interview folks there? We’ll be traveling to Pasadena to conduct interviews (lunch and shopping of course) as well as some other places. You can’t go jaunting around the area? You might like to help out by doing some typing or editing of material. These are just some of the many ways you – yes you – can be a part of this project.

Want to find out more? Then **join us on Wednesday, August 3rd, at Gordon Biersch Brewery on San Fernando Boulevard in Burbank for food, fun and the chance to sign up for a great year.** Watch your mail or email for details.

LWVC Legislative Priorities

1. Priority Issues

REDISTRICTING REFORM



STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES

- Support reform of the state budgeting process
- Support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues

HEALTH CARE

- Support access to a basic level of quality health care for all residents
- Support continued funding of the safety net.

2. Support requests from local Leagues and ILOs for advocacy on bills of specific interest to their jurisdictions.

3. Take action as appropriate on core issues: Elections, Voting Rights, Campaign Finance Reform, and Reproductive Choices.



4. Consider Program Director recommendations for action on the highest priority bills in their program areas.

5. Review all statewide ballot measures and recommend a position or neutrality on each one to the LWVC Board of Directors.

CATHY SELLITTO

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LWV County Convention Report

THE CONVENTION ELECTED the nominated slate of officers and passed the proposed budget for LWVC.

No new study or update of existing study.

There were three Issues for Education and Advocacy adopted:

Redistricting, State and Local Finance, Health Care

The State Board will provide materials to local Leagues. Local Leagues choose to use them for education and/or advocacy – or not.

Our Voter received two awards—Excellence in graphic layout and design; Excellence in President’s Message

Leagues were asked to sign up to make statements of League position on water policy at hearings throughout the state. League members responded and all nine hearings will be covered

There were several Resolutions to Express the Will of the Convention:

- 1) To send a letter urging Sen. Dianne Feinstein to oppose secret hearings on the markup of the Patriot Act renewal bill ; This was done and a press release issued; Senator Feinstein opposed the secret hearings
- 2) to direct LWVC Board to prepare a statement in support of CEQA. The Board has done this
- 3) to direct the LWVC Water group to review our policy on conjunctive use in the Sacramento River Valley basin

SPEAKERS:

State Secretary of State Bruce McPherson

John Mott-Smith, Voter Outreach Director, Calif. State Secretary of State’s Office

Both speakers addressed the need to restore public confidence in the office. Secretary McPherson told the Convention that he was confident that HAVA

funds would be released to California within the next two weeks. John Mott-Smith outlined several programs which he hoped the League would accept as a partner with the office.

Kathay Feng, ED California Common Cause She spoke about the joint effort of Common Cause and the League to effect redistricting reform.

Senator Sheila Kuehl

She outlined the latest version of the universal health care bill, SB 840, and the ongoing efforts to work for its passage.

STATE BOARD NEWS:

The LWVC Board approved the consensus of the Education Study Update.

The Energy Study kits will be mailed in August, not June as previously announced. And the deadline for consensus forms to be returned to State Board has been moved to March, 2006 from November 2005.

The Board has approved adding a zip code look up feature to the LWVC website. This will assist members of the public seeking information about their nearest local League and cut down the number of telephone and email queries to the State office.

League Easy Web is being marketed to Leagues across the country with great success. 60 Leagues now participate; 31 in California.

Concern over the breakdown of the state study process led to the Board holding listening sessions at Convention. Delegates were asked to give their opinions as to how the process could be changed to keep state studies a viable part of League. The results of the sessions were recorded and will be given to the Board. The Board will read them carefully and deliberate on the next step in this process.

ACTION ALERT: Oppose Roll Back of Campaign Finance Reform!

A BILL RECENTLY REPORTED by the House Administration Committee under the leadership of Chairman Bob Ney is a dangerous retreat to the days of huge special interest contributions to office holders, candidates and the political parties. The House of Representatives may take up this legislation before July 4. **Please ask your Member of Congress to oppose H.R. 1316 today!** Under the guise of reform, the so-called –527 Fairness Act of 2005—instead would roll back important safeguards. H.R. 1316 lifts the ceiling on individual contributions — allowing upwards of \$3 million to be given by a single individual — and invites the corrupting influence of enormous campaign contributions back into elections. Members of Congress, the President and federal candidates could solicit these huge contributions and direct where they are spent. The bill also increases fundraising from corporate sources and allows PACs (political action committees) to increase their giving by 50 percent. H.R. 1316 repeals fundamental protections to our election process put into place by

the Federal Election Campaign Act in 1974 and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. These landmark reforms were hard-won responses to the Watergate scandals and fundraising abuses of the 1990s. They were accomplished through years of citizen action. Americans do not want to give wealth and special interests more access to power. American citizens want more reform, not a retreat from anti-corruption safeguards. The House is expected to consider H.R. 1316 on the floor before the July 4 recess. **Take action now! ACTION NEEDED** 1. Contact your Representative in the U.S. House now, by phone and by email, and urge her/him to oppose H.R. 1316 and any attempt to repeal our anti-corruption campaign finance laws. Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121. **Or, simply click here to enter your zip code and send an instant message to your Representative now!** 2. Send this email alert to other concerned citizens your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Representative today!



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 (include a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership

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

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

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

The Voter

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The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens 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.



Breaking News!

The League will be honored by the Glendale City Council—on Tuesday June 28th. The Glendale City Council will present the League with a commendation for the outstanding Voter Service work we have done this past year. Please join us at the Council meeting to celebrate this achievement.

Our sympathy

to **Connie Wilson** on the death of her husband Alan.

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Sat. 10-4; Sun. 12-4

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League of Women Voters
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<http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org>

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

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

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