

June 2003 Calendar

Saturday
July 26

Popovers in Pasadena
Pasadena Women's Club
See flyer on page 2

Thursday
September 25
7-9pm

**THE PATRIOT ACT AND
YOUR CIVIL LIBERTIES
A PUBLIC FORUM**
GLENDALE FIRE STATION 21
421 OAK STREET
GLENDALE

OCTOBER
**COUNTY GOVERNMENT STUDY
UPDATE**

Saturday
November 15
10:00 am
**CHARTER REVISION IN GLENDALE
AND MAYBE BURBANK**

President's Message

Chris Carson, President

YOU KNOW, THERE'S A LOT OF GLOOM OUT THERE—bad news from every sector, internationally and locally. In short, it's getting easier to sink into a blue funk.

However, it's Summer. The flowers are blooming all over the place. I saw a deer and two fawns yesterday. And an endangered California gray squirrel who sometimes visits my yard showed up early this morning.

So let's all try to lighten up by doing some of the following:

Come to Popovers on July 26th and hear an outstanding speaker.

Resolve to see a movie that makes you laugh.

Go to an exhibit at one of our many museums.

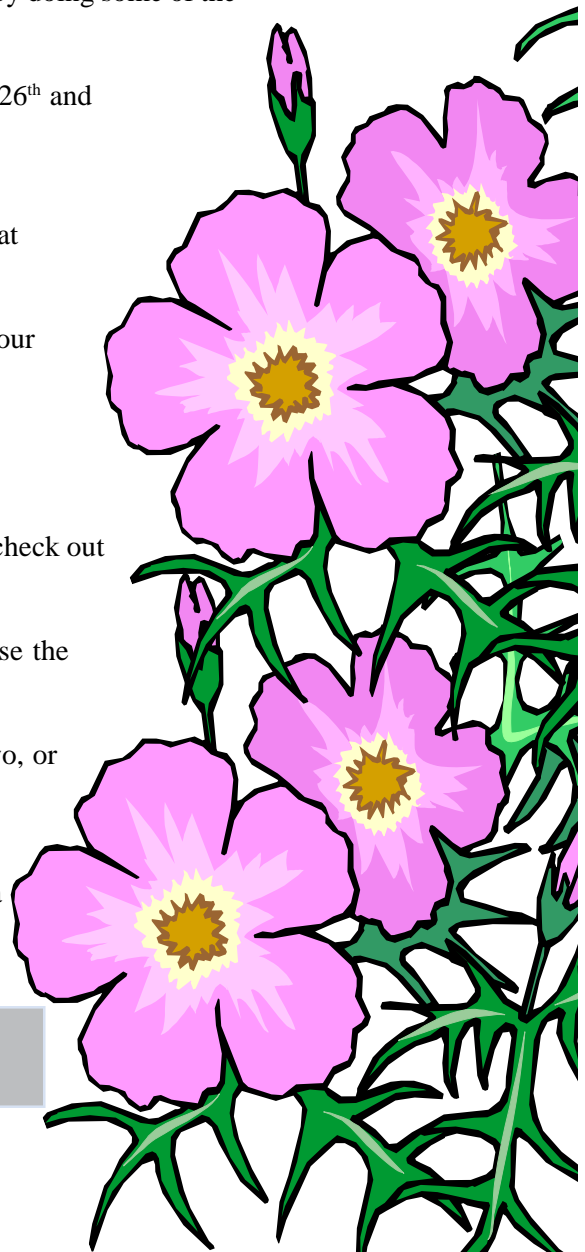
See a good play.

Take a walk in downtown Burbank and Glendale and check out the scene.

Visit the bookstores, browse the shelves and have coffee.

Read a good book – or two, or three, or four, or five.

In short, chill out and have a great summer one and all.



Popovers in Pasadena

Saturday, July 26th

Women's City Club, Pasadena.
160 North Oakland

Registration: 9:30 am

Meeting: 10:00 am

Lunch: \$25.00 (includes materials and Yearbooks)

Workshops: Presidents
Action
County Study
Membership

Speaker: Raphael Sonenshein,
Professor of Political Science
CSU Fullerton
County Government—An Oxymoron?

RSVP by July 21st

Send reservation and check (payable to LWVLAC) to
Gwen Cochran, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank, 91501 (818) 848-8684

Name: _____

League: _____ Position: _____

Check here for vegetarian lunch

LWVC News and Convention Information

May 28, 2003 NEWS RELEASE

LWVC Delegates Concerned Over Eroding Civil Liberties

SACRAMENTO Delegates attending the recent League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) Convention in Oakland passed a resolution expressing great concern about the erosion of civil liberties in the United States of America. This follows a recent vote by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) board of directors to add civil liberties to its current legislative agenda.

In passing the resolution, delegates to the League's 60th statewide convention expressed their concern that several executive orders and legislative acts, such as the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and the Homeland Security Act, are contrary to such basic League positions as opposing major threats to basic constitutional rights and individual liberties; protecting the citizen's right to know; and facilitating citizen participation in government decision-making.

League members will urge state and local officials to closely oversee the implementation of these acts and executive orders to ensure constitutional protections are not abridged. League members will also promote education efforts to increase public awareness of the need to protect Constitutional rights.

Since its birth in 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to protect civil liberties and foster open government for all. The "witchhunt" period of the early 1950s led the League to undertake a two-year Freedom Agenda community education program dealing with issues such as freedom of speech. The LWVUS announced the current position on civil liberties in 1982.

The League of Women Voters of California is the largest state League organization in the United States, with 70 local Leagues and four county/area Leagues and more than 11,000 members.

The Resolution states:

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters from its inception has worked to protect civil liberties and foster open government for all; and

WHEREAS portions of several executive orders and legislative acts, such as the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and the Homeland Security Act, are contrary to the following positions of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

- citizen rights: protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making
- individual liberties: oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS portions of these acts and executive orders have undermined our fundamental rights and liberties including:

- freedom of speech, religion, assembly and the press
- protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
- the rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings
- equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS portions of these acts and executive orders impact our liberties and other sources of information, reducing our privacy as well as restricting our ability to obtain public information as provided under the Freedom of Information Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the League of Women Voters of California Convention do express great concern about the erosion of civil liberties and acknowledge

Resolution continued on page 4

the need for extensive education to increase awareness and aid in protecting our Constitutional rights, while acknowledging widespread fear in the United States and the need for fair and effective ways to cope; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters, at all levels,

— stand publicly and with other respected organizations that have voiced their concern about civil liberties and open government processes
— take timely and appropriate action to affirm and defend the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters, at all levels, urge our elected representatives to

— closely oversee the implementation of these acts and executive orders

— actively work for the repeal of such portions of them that violate our constitutional rights and liberties

— adamantly oppose proposed legislation, such as the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, and any future legislation that would undermine or curtail our fundamental rights and liberties set forth in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters of California communicate this will of the convention to the League of Women Voters of the United States and urge their immediate action.

Summary of Other Action Taken at Convention

The Issues for Emphasis Are:

Health Care - Education and Action as we work toward universal access to health care;

State and Local Finance - Education and Action as we try to resolve the budget crisis at all levels of government and

The Community College System - Education and Action as we move to take action on our new position.

Both **studies** adopted are updates on our current position, one **on Energy** and one **on Education**. Both are subject to finding funding and you will be hearing a lot more about them over the next few months.

A **new board** was elected and new is the key word here. Only four are continuing from the previous board and one of them was appointed mid-term. Two are from Los Angeles County; Robbie Davis, Pasadena Area, was elected Chair

of Educational Activities and Wendy Phillips, Beach Cities, as Treasurer.

Another, very important **action** that was taken was the adopting of a **Resolution on Civil Liberties** expressing our concern that actions such as the Patriot Act and Homeland Security Act are not in accord with our positions and principles and asking our National Board to take action. This and other resolutions are also on the LWVC website.

Open government is always a concern of League and many of us have been very concerned with a small provision on pages 82 and 83 of the May Revise Budget that would do away with the mandate for local governments to **post agendas** 72 hours in advance of any meeting. The State Board sent a letter to the governor about this and gave me authority to speak about it before the Board of Supervisors. They agreed to direct their legislative advocates to urge this be reinstated by a 5/0 vote.

State PMP was increased \$1 to \$19.

GIVE IT AWAY!

by Judy Davis, LWV California Education Fund Chair

A PLANE LEAVES THE AIRPORT in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In it is a young woman headed even further into the back of beyond. She is going to present a workshop called “Making Democracy Work” for the local militias. These are the men who work for the warlord who commands the village. The first morning the men swagger in unshaven, dirty and asking, “What is this woman going to teach us? What does she know?” They spend the day learning to brainstorm, how to rank order priorities, how to focus on a local problem they need to solve, how to get people involved and working together. The next morning the men come in clean-shaven, wearing clean clothes, standing up straight and sucking in their gut. Their evaluation forms say that for the first time they have been able to express their opinion and learn how they can help solve their own community problems. They feel self-worth for the first time. The guns and knives they carried evidently didn’t give them self-worth or make them feel as empowered as they felt when using the tools of activism given to them by that young woman. **This is civic engagement—the work of the Ed Fund.**

A candidates’ forum on the outskirts of Dushanbe, Tajikistan must be cancelled because one of the candidates has been killed in a car bombing and the other eight are attending his funeral at the appointed time. But two hundred people are sitting in the hall. Should it be rescheduled? Would that be too risky? The forum committee decides that this first-ever forum must go on if people are this hungry for information. So they reschedule for one week later. Next time all of the remaining candidates are there and 600 people are in the audience.

This is voter service writ large—the work of the Ed Fund.

A young woman writes to the feedback section of Smart Voter: “You have given the vote back to a very disenchanting young person. I would never have voted without this information.” **This is 21st century leading-edge voter service—the work of the Ed Fund.**

“You have given the vote back to a very disenchanting young person. I would never have voted without this information.”

Quote from a young woman in Smart Voter feedback section

A man stands up in a forum arranged to discuss the hard choices that must be made in the effort to balance the need for economic growth of a community with the need to maintain the health and a decent quality of life for the people who live there. In his recently acquired English he says that this is the first time anyone has invited him to voice his opinion about what he wants for the future of his community and he just wants to say thank you. **This is deliberative dialogue—the work of the Ed Fund.**

An economic bubble has burst and people are losing jobs and careers. They need retraining in order to find new work. Less

money and fewer jobs means that more students are coming to the community colleges because they can’t afford to go away to a university or take four years to get a college degree. An already overburdened system is thrown into crisis and has trouble responding to community needs. A group of people from around the state are so concerned that they put together a committee and with virtually no money set out to document how the system works

ED FUND AT WORK continued on page 9

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Machines and HAVA Implementation



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

THE POSSIBILITY OF ELECTION FRAUD resulting from the use of DRE voting machines has been a topic of discussion as part of the implementation of the new Help America Vote Act. In an effort to address the concerns that have arisen, the League has considered expert opinions from all sides of the debate.

First, it is important to consider the concerns in the full context of election reform efforts. The MIT/CalTech study following the 2000 election indicated that voter registration issues are the number one problem in election reform. Problems with voting systems (machines, such as punch card and lever systems) properly recording the voter's intent were a close second. The League has focused its HAVA implementation work on achieving practical solutions to the most important problems: accurate and accessible registration lists, protections against erroneous purges, provisional balloting systems that protect the right of every eligible voter to cast a ballot and have it counted, machines that protect the right of people with disabilities to cast an independent and secret ballot, poll worker training that is adequate and uniform, and machines that assist individuals with limited English.

In this context, it is important to make sure that purchase or leasing of voting machines proceeds in ways that will protect voters. There are several key ways this must be done. First, disability and language access. Second, "second chance" voting whereby the voter can check and get a new ballot if necessary. Third, management systems to ensure reliability.

It has been suggested that DRE machines are inherently subject to fraud unless there is an individual paper record of each vote. This seems extreme. DREs are extremely sophisticated machines and most DREs store information in multiple formats and in multiple places

within its program. To tamper with a DRE someone would need to know each and every format and storage capacity and be able to manipulate it undetected. Additionally, it must be remembered that DREs are not an election system unto themselves; they are simply an instrument within a complex election system. The key is to design an overall system that builds in multiple checks making it improbable that the system will be tampered with.

The LWVUS does support an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems, including, but not limited to, DREs. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve those goals; in fact this is unnecessary and can be counterproductive. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs, and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be needed to replace machines that don't work. Simply because a voter verifies their vote on a piece of paper does not guarantee the same results have been recorded within the machine and vice versa. And why would we assume that, if the total from a paper count and the total from a machine count are different, the paper count is accurate? Is it not just as easy to tamper with an election by "losing" a couple of paper ballots or miscounting them during a recount? And what about the number of ballots involved? In Florida, in the 2000 presidential election, nearly 6 million votes were cast. Do we really believe that recounting that many paper ballots is more accurate than using certified electronic equipment?

The legitimacy of elections is not only dependent upon the ability to verify results if they are in question but also upon implementing good systems that protect the individual's right to vote. This means putting appropriate policies and processes in place that:

- 1) stop individuals from being purged from voter lists unless there is an exact match of voter information;
- 2) protect the rights of voters who are unintentionally at the wrong polling place due to such things as a last minute change in polling place assignment;
- 3) provide poll workers with the necessary training and tools to administer elections, thereby reducing the number of people who leave the polls without voting due to frustration or long lines;
- 4) give election officials - not the DRE manufacturers - control over ballot creation;
- 5) at the appropriate level of government obtain a copy of the source code that operates the machines;
- 6) ensure the DREs record information by voter;
- 7) ensure the DREs store multiple copies of the information;
- 8) mandate that voting systems are randomly tested as they come off the assembly lines, upon delivery, prior to opening the polls, during election day and post election;
- 9) protect the rights of voters by ensuring ID requirements are adhered to in a uniform and nondiscriminatory fashion; and
- 10) alert voters if they have over voted or under voted for an office and give them the opportunity to “fix” their ballot prior to casting the ballot.

In Summary

The LWVUS does support an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems, including, but not limited to, DREs. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve those goals. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs, and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be needed to replace machines that don't work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than an individual ballot paper confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.

Presidential Position Update Study

THE UPDATE COMMITTEE has published their first position paper. This is an excerpt from the online discussion group.

Ideally, the presidential selection process would produce:

- the best possible candidates,
- informed voters and
- optimum voter participation

Does our current system achieve these goals?
What impedes these goals?

These are the questions we'd like to address as we look at the primary system, caucuses, the role of the parties, the media and emerging technology—factors that not only influence the Presidential Process, but also impact on one another.

We expect that we will continue to support our current position, which is as follows: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct popular vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. We do not expect significant options for change in the current political climate, except, of course, for the voting issues in which we are currently engaged.

More complete information, and the first survey can be found in the latest National Voter which was delivered this week.

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generously support the work of the League—Voter Service, Citizen Education and Advocacy. They make our projects possible. Please patronize them and ask your friends to do the same. And let them know who you are. They need to know that we're supporting them.

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and see if there are ways it can be made to work better. Forty-nine Leagues participate in the study and come to consensus. Now there is good information with which to inform the public about how the system works, the opportunities it affords and how they can help to make it fit their community's needs. **This is study—the work of the Ed Fund.**

A position statement is written and passed on to the advocacy side of the League because advocacy can never happen without a position and a position can only come from study. This is the strength of the League and along with nonpartisanship the bedrock of our reputation.

You have these skills within you. Take them into your community where they are needed most and give them away. **This is the work of the Ed Fund—the work I love to do.**

Thank you.
Judy Davis, LWV California Education Fund Chair

Annual Meeting Snap Shots



THE ANNUAL MEETING drew a dedicated gathering of League members for lunch at the Castaways banquet room in Burbank. Members enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and voted on studies and new board members.

Photos: Tom Carson



Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All citizens of voting age are welcome.

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)

- \$50.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$70.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- 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. Dues are not deductible for tax purposes.

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

Member News

Marsha Ramos is now Vice Mayor, Burbank

Armine Hacopian was elected President of the Board of Trustees, Glendale Community College



Pam Ellis was re-elected to the Board of Education, Glendale

Lila Ramirez is serving on the Glendale Charter Revision Commission

Florence Domes is exhibiting a painting in the Valley Watercolor Society Annual Juried Membership Exhibition during June at the Creative Arts Center, 1100 W. Clark Ave., Burbank

Chris Carson graduated from the Leadership Burbank program which identifies emerging leaders for the purpose of improvement of the Burbank community through their personal commitment

The Voter

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

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Editor: Chris Carson
Production: Carole Dougherty
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The **League of Women Voters** is a nonpartisan organization open to citizens—women and men—of voting age. The purpose of the League is to promote political responsibility through informed participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected issues.



LWV League of Women Voters
Glendale - Burbank
VOTER

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League web sites:
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