



League of Women Voters  
North Orange  
County

# VOTER

February 2005

714-254-7440  
P.O. Box 3073  
Fullerton, CA 92834

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.

## The League of Women Voters Making History

February 14, 1920 – February 14, 2005

**F**rom the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the first World War came a great idea: the idea that a nonpartisan organization could provide political education and experience that would contribute to the growth of the citizen and thus assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's 50<sup>th</sup> convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. A League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?

From the very beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League were not exclusively focused on just women's issues and that citizen education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For more than 80 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

These citizen-directed activities laid the foundation for the countless diverse and creative efforts that make up the League's year-round program of

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## From Your Co-Presidents

# Grassroots Democracy League Style

**A**s we recall the history of our organization and celebrate its birthday, we have the opportunity to participate in the League's grassroots process of program planning.

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both education and action efforts. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

The process of program planning sets the League apart from so many other national membership organizations which lack our grassroots component. In League, decisions on issues for study and positions for education and advocacy are made by consensus among members rather than by a board of directors. Program planning is grassroots democracy—League style.

When you attend our birthday celebration on February 12<sup>th</sup>, you'll be an active participant in choosing those issues which Leagues throughout California will adopt as program for the coming bien-

niem. We'll review current government, natural resources and social policy positions and decide on those we want to emphasize for action and advocacy. This is the time to suggest your ideas for new topics which you think should be adopted for study and action. Two such study proposals are:

- ◆ A new study of the state judiciary to examine issues related to choosing judges, including the appointment process, running for office, the cost of campaigning and informing the voter

- ◆ An update of LWVC redistricting position to examine multi-member districts with proportional voting as a means of eliminating gerrymandering and providing more voters with representation.

What do you want for the California of 2007? What do you want the League to accomplish over the next two years? Be part of the program making process at our 85th Birthday Celebration on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Eileen Olmsted, Eleanor Fumanti*

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### Draft Report of the Civil Liberties Advisory Task Force

**T**he Civil Liberties Advisory Task Force met in Washington on November 16 and 17 to begin designing recommendations to the LWVUS Board at its January meeting that addresses civil liberty and security today. We met with appropriate LWVUS staff who have been working on these issues for at least 18 months, and two outside experts who participated in the panel at convention: We worked on the scope of a plan and the possible kinds of activities we will recommend to the Board. The overriding scope is: To preserve liberties and features of the U.S. Constitution for current and future generations by examining them in the context of 9/11, homeland security, and terrorism. With that, we have broken the issues into the following seven segments, with Task Force members developing outlines for each section: The nature of freedom, Liberty and the invasion of privacy, Secrecy in government – transparency, Homeland security – cooperation among agencies, costs, efficiency, The courts – immigrants and detainees, The threat -- the Middle East and terrorism, America in the world today and the role of multinational institutions. Within each section, we anticipate recommending the development of material for League meetings, forums that engage the public, and – where appropriate – action at the state and local level on our existing positions on civil liberty and the citizen's right to know.

## 85th Birthday Celebration February 12th

The League marks its 85<sup>th</sup> birthday this month, which we will honor with a birthday celebration on February 12. Hoping to find a few long-time NOC members to recognize at the party, I combed through League membership records that date back to the formation of the NOC (which combined the earlier Fullerton and La Habra Leagues).

### Long time members

According to those records the following members have been affiliated with NOC or its predecessors for 35 years or more: Edith Bockian, Mary Evelyn Bryden, Joan Cohen, Nancy Fix, Bette Frazier, Toni Henley, Lois Madley, Molly McClanahan, Sylvia Oelker, Betty Robertson, Marian Schain, Lorril Senefeld, Miriam Sheddon and Nancy Zinberg. Congratulations, ladies! I apologize if I've missed anyone. Let me know if there are others who should be on this list.

### Elected to public office

Congratulations also to five of our members who were elected/re-elected to their posts in November: Rose Espinoza (La Habra City Council); Barbara Kilponen (Fullerton Joint Union HS District Board); Barbara Michel (Buena Park School District Board); Sharon Quirk (Fullerton City Council); and Hilda Sugarman (Fullerton Elementary School District Board).

### New members

We have some new members, too. Welcome to Tim O'Donnell (honorary, Brea); Barbara Schaefer (Fullerton); and Frann Shermet (Cypress).

### Happy birthday to us all

What a wonderful mix our membership is: the veterans who have "been there done that" scores of times but are still enthusiastic participants; the senior members who are content to watch from the sidelines after years of dedicated service; the doers who have actually entered the political arena rather than just discussing it; the rookies, perhaps timid at first about finding their place in the League; the invisible members who loyally support the League year after year with their membership dues; the "sandwich" generation of Leaguers who are neither long-time veterans nor rookies but somewhere in between.

What is it that keeps the group going year after year? Congenial friendship? Common interests? Commitment to League goals? Intellectual stimulation? Unending challenges? Shared values? Pride of membership? Social responsibility? Probably all of these plus others

unique to each person. Your membership supports and ensures the continuing success of the League's role in educating and informing ourselves and our communities.

An updated member folder will be distributed at the Birthday Celebration. Please let me know before the member roster is printed if you have a recent change of address, phone or e-mail. In addition to the roster, these folders will contain updated LWV policy positions, web sites and other contact information, information for new members and a copy of *Facts for Voters*. Following the celebration, the folders will be available at all NOC events through May.

You can contact me at (714) 828-8624 or [aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)

★ ★ ★ Let's Celebrate ★ ★ ★

**It's the League's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**Saturday, February 12**  
**9 AM to 1 PM**  
**Fullerton Joint Union HS Office**  
**1051 W Bastanchury (w of Euclid)**  
**Continental Breakfast**  
**Salad Luncheon**  
**Program Planning for 2005-06**  
**Games and Prizes**  
**Video "How We Got the Vote"**

RSVP Arline Burgmeier  
 714-828-8624 or [aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)

## FORUM: Saturday March 5th

# Our Growing Population - A 2020 Vision

When my husband and I purchased our home in Fullerton in 1959, we looked for those special features that make living in any town desirable. We checked for a fine school district for our children, for a responsible city government that provided police and fire protection, kept streets clean, and maintained roads, park systems and library service. The relief provided by open space was a given with many orange groves still scattered about.

With the passage of years, we've come to identify such cities as sustainable communities. Today, there are many additional problems that need to be solved to keep North Orange County—indeed, all of our County—a livable, sustainable community. Many of these factors are beyond the control of a single city. County, State and National Governments frequently play a role in seeking solutions.

For example, about everyone agrees that traffic problems exist both on freeways and city streets. Visible or not, air pollution from various sources, including the ever increasing number of vehicles, still persists adding to health problems. The disposal of sewage and solid wastes needs constant attention and upgrading. Keeping our beaches clean and unpolluted is a continuous task. Water, in time of drought, becomes less available. What to do? Some schools may be burdened with inadequate facilities for increasing numbers of students. With limited budgets, will school districts be able to provide all that is expected of them? And, finally,

*(Continued from page 1)*

continuing political education today: from the Presidential Debates, local and state debates and candidates questionnaires produced by Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded through the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: "The organization has three purposes: to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support

the problem of adding housing continues to be a burden. Where shall we build? What kind of housing should we provide? How much of our open space must we expect to be consumed?

All of these factors are affected by the continuing population growth. California is projected to increase from its current about 36 million to 50 million by 2020. There is no perfect way to predict how each individual city will be impacted. But serious growth seems inevitable.

At our Forum on March 5, we will address three of these areas.

◆ How will our Water District prepare for the population surge?

◆ What can our cities provide in the way of housing and community services and still retain open space?

◆ How do our school systems, with so much required of them, cope with significant changes in the number of students?

Speakers from the Orange County Water District, from the Placentia/ Yorba Linda Unified School District and from the Fullerton Planning Department will indicate what their plans are for meeting their expected population expansion by the year 2020. **The Forum will be held at the Fullerton Main Library on March 5 at 10 a.m. to noon.** Come, listen and ask questions. We need answers.

BY EDITH BOCKIAN  
NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR

needed legislation."

There is probably no other national volunteer organization in America that inspires such a great degree of commitment from its members. As a direct result of that commitment, the League of Women Voters has evolved from what it was in 1920—a **might political experiment**—designed to help 20 million enfranchised women carry out their new responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

## ORANGE COUNTY VOTER

### Out With the Old, In With the New

**The Orange County Board of Supervisors met for the last meeting of 2004 and again for the reorganization meeting of the 2005 board.**

BY TRISH HARRIGAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OBSERVER  
ORANGE COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mr. Smith no doubt enjoyed all the parties, of his last days as a member of the BOS, but his last meeting on 12/21 cannot have been so pleasant. Two causes he supported were opposed by his colleagues. A plan for a county pilot program to allow employees to purchase certain prescriptions from Canada was voted down, 4-1, because, as Chairman Wilson put it, "it isn't legal". Incoming Supervisor Lou Correa spoke in support of the idea and promised to bring it back, saying there was a potential for considerable savings for both the county and employees. Mr. Norby was interested in studying the issue, because he felt pressure might change federal law, but voted no

Mr. Smith was also on the losing end, 4-1, on a vote to "give notice of termination of Construction Stabilization Agreement to Building and Construction Trades, effective 12/31/05". This cryptic language, in a consent item, which was pulled by a member of the public, referred to a labor pact entered into in 1999 that required that 85% of workers on county projects be union members. At that time the agreement was much criticized as a deal with the unions for their support of an airport at El Toro. The meeting room was full of union workers and leaders who stressed the benefits of the agreement, saying it bans strikes and work stoppages, brings certainty to contracting, and keeps wages in the county instead of having the work go to outsiders. Opponents of the pact spoke about the restrictions on bidding, on competition, and the resulting increased costs. The possibility of labor strife was brought up by a union leader, others wanted the issue studied, with cost comparisons made, and they questioned the timing of the item.

Mr. Wilson said he had put it on the agenda and pointedly reminded the group that there had been no study and very little information provided the

first time around, in spite of his request for it. Mr. Campbell said it was a question of policy and philosophy, about competition and freedom of choice and not about preferential treatment for 25% of the county's work force and making people go to union halls and pay dues to be hired. Mr. Correa, from the audience, said he would like to see more study and said it was political because dollars and cents are involved. Interesting distinction, that.

On 1/4/05, the board organized itself for the next year. Mr. Correa took his place on the dais, Mr. Campbell was voted chairman, with Mr. Wilson vice-chair. Mr. Norby objected to this and nominated himself as vice-chair but received no second. He feels the leadership positions should rotate among the members and not be subject to a vote based on ideology. He recalled similar incidents from his time on the Fullerton City Council. Rotation used to be the case on the board until the late 90's when those members supportive of an El Toro airport denied Mr. Wilson his turns because he opposed the airport and it was declared that he "couldn't be leader" when the majority supported an airport.

Then the board members discussed the current practice of the county hiring retirees, some almost the next day, to work part time. Mr. Campbell indicated he didn't favor the practice and asked lots of pointed questions. The head of the retired workers association explained that the retired workers provide expertise, only work part time, don't cost that much. A probation department employee complained that the practice blocks advancement for regular workers, affects union jobs, and he thinks the practice is abused. Mr. Norby expressed skepticism about the numbers given, said they don't include contractors and consultants. The CEO's office promised a report to include guidelines, discussion of pros and cons, etc. Mr. Campbell wants Public Safety to explain its high numbers, which he says can not be for seasonal reasons.

Then Mr. Correa asked that an analysis be done of the effects on the budget of rising pension costs. Interesting, considering that he sponsored the legislation that allows much of the increased benefits. Law of unintended consequences anyone?

## League Happenings

### Garage Sale February 26

LWVNOC first garage sale, held in October 2003, raised just over \$2000 for League activities. With your help we can repeat that success. There's something cathartic about thinning out ones belongings especially for a cause as worthy as the League. So pack up and donate all the things that no longer are an active part of your life. Drop them off at 2241 Victoria Drive, Fullerton on February 23-25. In addition to your donations, **we need workers** on Friday and Saturday. And finally, we have a **great need for folding tables**, either card tables or other folding tables. Please put your name on these and drop them off with your donations. For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Eileen Miller at 714-528-8985  
[rojomiller@earthlink.net](mailto:rojomiller@earthlink.net)

### Energy Forums Keeping the Lights On

For the past two years, LWVC Energy Committee has been working with other public interest groups, government officials, and industry spokespersons to clarify a variety of viewpoints regarding options for California's electricity future. It was clear two years ago that the industry, torn apart by the

deregulation debacle, was still largely dysfunctional. In 2002 SB 1389 (Bowen) called for an ongoing process of integrated energy planning statewide, and the LWVC committee has been an active participant in that effort. By now, what caused the electricity crisis is evident; however, it is not yet totally clear how the industry can best be structured to meet the needs of the people of California in the coming years.

The LWVC Education Fund hosted two major all-day forums in January to address our state's energy situation with particular emphasis on the structure and governance of the electricity system. The Los Angeles Times and NBC News covered and reported on the Los Angeles Forum. Shirley Bloom, Eleanor Fumanti and Fran Mathews represented LWVNOC. The gist of the reportage is that California faces rolling blackouts this summer due to lack of energy production and old transmission lines. California's Energy System is very complex and involves aging power plants and dependence on natural gas; weaknesses in the transmission system, growing population and demand, and environmental issues.

LWVNOC will take part in the statewide update/study of our energy position. Study materials will be available in May and we will conduct local con-

sensus meetings in the fall. If you would like to be a member of the study committee, please contact:

Eleanor Fumanti, 714-879-1782  
[mefumanti@adelphia.net](mailto:mefumanti@adelphia.net)

### Advocacy for Community Colleges

The League of Women Voters of California, long an advocate for education, has recently completed a study of the California community colleges and actively supports a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. *Community Colleges: the Best Kept Secret* a power point presentation prepared by LWVNOC extols the value of Community Colleges to citizens and business by explaining aspects of the colleges' mission, governance, finance and access. The project was funded by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and presented to about one hundred members of the Fullerton College Vocational Advisory Committee at Fullerton College on January 13, 2005. It is available for presentation to other community groups. For more information, contact:

Dr. Kay Bruce, 714-921-1308  
[kay-bruce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kay-bruce@sbcglobal.net)

**Lunch with League**

Thursday, February 24, 11:30 AM

**Health Care: The Continuing Crisis****Melinda Beswick, CEO Anaheim Memorial Medical Center****Sizzler Restaurant****1401 Harbor Blvd. Fullerton****Cost \$12.00****Call 714-254-7440 By February 22****Steak, Chicken or Salad Bar****SHAKING UP THE STATUS QUO:****THE MOVEMENT TO TRANSFORM HIGH SCHOOL**

At the 28th Annual EdSource Forum, "Shaking Up the Status Quo: The Movement to Transform High School," a group of outstanding speakers will examine the multiple challenges involved in changing the status quo in California's public high schools. Don't miss this significant and timely event! Join EdSource on **Thursday, March 17** in Manhattan Beach. Since LWVC is an EdSource subscriber, LWVC members are eligible for an early bird registration rate of \$50 until Feb. 18. After that date, registration is \$60 for EdSource subscribers.

For Carpool info, Call E.Fumanti: 714-879-1782

To register, go to

<https://www.edsource.org/order/confregform.cfm?issubscriber=1>**GEARING UP TO PASS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
Solutions That Work**

You are invited to a special presentation of the credible Lewin Study research findings on the Health Care for All Californians Act

**Wednesday, February 9, 2005**

1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church of Long Beach,  
241 Cedar, Cedar and 3rd  
Long Beach 90802

**Time: 9:45-12 Noon**

Please come and hear about the astounding findings showing how California can provide an affordable, high quality health care plan with permanence and security in coverage to all.

Information: [choff74523@aol.com](mailto:choff74523@aol.com) 310 377 7668

Parking at City Lot on Broadway and Cedar

Car Pool Info: E. Fumanti 714-879-1782

**CALENDAR****LWV 85TH Birthday****Saturday, February 12****9:00AM-1:00PM**

FJUHS District Board Room  
1051 W Bastanchury at Euclid

Program Planning

Games and Prizes

Video [How We Got the Vote](#)

Continental Breakfast

Salad Luncheon

RSVP Arline Burgmeier

714-929-9624

[aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net)**Lunch with League****Thursday, February 24, 11:30 AM****Health Care****The Continuing Crisis****Melinda Beswick****CEO, Anaheim Memorial**

Sizzler Restaurant

1401 North Harbor Blvd.

Fullerton Cost \$12

Reservations: Call 714-254-7440

**LWVNOC Garage Sale****February 26, 8:00AM-1:00PM**

Rain or Shine

2241 Victoria Drive, Fullerton

714-879-1782

Drop off Donations Feb. 23-25

Call 714-879-1782

**Forum****Our Growing Population****A 2020 Vision**

Saturday, March 5

10:00AM-Noon

Fullerton Main Library

Panelists from the

Orange County Water District

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

School District

Fullerton Planning Department

Free and Open to the Public

**JOIN THE LEAGUE!!!**

We're a not-for profit organization, established in 1920, with the mission of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We never support or oppose political candidates. We do advocate on issues that our members have studied and on which we've reached consensus. All citizens — both men and women of voting age— are welcome to join!

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to join. Enclosed is my check for \$55.00 payable to LWVNOC.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to the League of Women Voters NOC**

P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

714-254-7440

**LWVNOC Garage Sale**

**Rain or Shine**

**Saturday, February 26, 2005**

**8:00AM-1:00PM**

**2241 Victoria Drive**

**Fullerton**

**Unclutter Your Life**

**Put Aside Those Unused Treasures**

**Drop off Donations February 23-24**

**Call 714-879-1782**



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**Birthday Celebration: Feb. 12**  
**Lunch with League: Feb. 24**

**Voter Editor**

Eleanor Fumanti

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