



League of Women Voters North Orange County

January 2008

VOTER

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

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation 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.

President's Message

LWVNOC The Year Ahead

On behalf of the LWVNOC Board of Directors, I want to wish you all a New Year filled with Joy and obvious steps towards Peace in the world. Since this is the time of year that publications use lists of ten to report highlights and forecasts, I thought it would be a good format to use in looking forward to our own event packed 2008 League year. As you read our list, I think you'll agree that 2008 offers us great opportunities for implementing League goals.

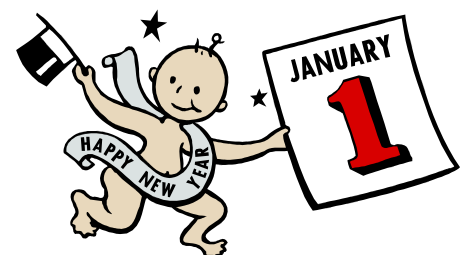
I also wanted to remind any of you interested in serving on the Orange County Grand Jury for 2008-2009, that your application must be in by January 11. www.ocgrandjury.org Wanda Shaffer has found it such a positive experience, she is currently serving her second term.

And finally, I did want you to know that I will miss a few meetings in January and February as I am having knee replacement surgery. My plan is to be sufficiently recovered to hobble over to the Judicial Independence Forum at CSUF on March 1st.

Best wishes to you all.
Mary Fuhrman
President, LWVNOC

OUR TOP TEN LEAGUE EVENTS 2008

1. Our high powered Judicial Independence Forum March 1 at CSUF.
2. Speakers Bureau instructing other organizations on California Judicial System.
3. Elections: two Primaries and the General Election in November.
4. Pros and Cons presentations for the three elections.
5. Primary Matters Forum January 15 at Fullerton Library.
6. Lunch With League. In January Dr. Pat Ganer will discuss the Presidential Primary.
7. Countywide League Meeting March 29: "What Does O.C. Government Do for Poor People?"
8. Read With League February: *The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.*
9. Candidate Debates for November election.
10. Annual League Birthday party in February to propose program topics for LWVUS convention in June.



Lunch With League January 24

Dr. Pat Ganer

Effect of the Early Primaries

Dr. Pat Ganer is a favorite and familiar figure to LWVNOC members who have enjoyed her wit and wisdom when she spoke about politics at previous League events. At our January Lunch with League she will focus on the current political season with emphasis on the effect of the early primaries. Dr. Ganer has served on the faculty at Cypress College since 1971 and also teaches each semester at CSU Long Beach. She works mainly in areas of political communication and argumentation. She served as an analyst on the Presidential Debates for the Los Angeles Times and as a commentator on George Bush's 2000 Convention speech for MSNBC television.



Inviting a guest to join you at Lunch with League would be one way to help implement a part of our Membership Recruitment Initiative. This event gives us an excellent opportunity to showcase League program to potential members.

Lunch on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 11:30AM at Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, Cost \$12. Reservations by Tuesday, January 22. Call Bette Frazier at 714-254-7440 or email, bfhf1951@aol.com

Membership Recruitment Initiative Is Underway

North Orange County is one of 20 California Leagues selected by the LWVUS to participate in a specially-designed Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). The MRI was created to encourage these Leagues to try various recruitment tools that could later be suggested to other Leagues across the U.S.

Members of the NOC Judicial Independence speakers' bureau are already bringing the MRI message "**Join Us In Making Democracy Work**" to community service organizations as part of their presentations about judicial independence. This message will be repeated many times in the coming year at other League-sponsored events such as ballot measure Pros and Cons meetings, candidate forums, Lunch with League and Read with League get-togethers. Members can help make the MRI recruitment effort successful by bringing relatives, friends and neighbors to these and other League events.

Members can also help by joining the Making Democracy Work Award committee. Anyone inter-

ested is invited to a planning meeting on Friday, January 11, at the home of Arline Burgmeier (4547 Everest Circle in Cypress). Call or email for information or directions (714/828-8624 or aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net).

League members are also encouraged to submit their personal stories to the LWVUS Storybank. The stories are submitted on-line; however, if you do not have a computer, you can submit your hand-written story to Arline Burgmeier and she will forward it on-line to the LWVUS. Selected stories will be used to inspire potential members to join.

The Storybank project asks for a 300 word (maximum) story about one of the following: what motivated you to join the LWV; what being a LWV member means to you; how your work with LWV has impacted the community; or how being a member has given you useful skills or knowledge. You'll find the on-line form at www.lwv.org/storybank/

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER
LWVNOC MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Primary Matters

January 15 Public Forum Co-sponsored by LWVNOC

In the primary election scheduled Feb. 5, 2008, Californians will have an unprecedented opportunity to register an early preference for the candidates who will head their party's race for the presidency in November. Will a win in California solidify some candidates' leads from earlier competitions in Iowa and New Hampshire, or will Californians' choices shake things up and draw out the contest? Will financing—or lack of it—determine candidates' success in our state? How do voters make sense of candidate choices and the referendums that share the election ballot?

To address these and other "primary matters," the **Fullerton Public Library, North Orange County League of Women Voters, and Neighbors United for Fullerton (NUFF)** have teamed up to co-sponsor a nonpartisan **free public forum Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Osborne Auditorium of the library, located at**

353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. Light refreshments will be served.

Tim Mountain, Fullerton Library's adult services manager, will introduce what he terms the library's "great new resources"—both online and shelved—available to help undecided voters choose among the candidates. Sandra Sutphen, Matt Jarvis and Steve Stambaugh, members of Cal State Fullerton's political science faculty, comprise a panel that will put the significance of this primary in historical and political context. And the League of Women Voters' Shirley Bloom, veteran observer of many California elections, will present an overview of the referendums to be placed before the state's voters February 5th.

This forum is one in a new series of public-interest forums presented by the Fullerton Public Library. To learn more about the Library's series, email Tim Mountain at tim@ci.fullerton.ca.us.

LWVNOC Observer Corps: Placentia-Yorba Linda School District

This is the first time I attended a school board meeting other than the Fullerton School District. Two things hit me right away. The Placentia/Linda School District is a unified district. The buildings are much larger as is the board room and the school district grounds. Also I do want to note that the chairs in the board room are much more comfortable.

The meeting was called to order on November 13, 2007 at 7:17p.m. following a closed session. I noted during the roll call that a student representative sits on the board. I also noticed the meeting was not as publically well attended as the Fullerton School District meeting. A report was made to the board about the students at Tuffree Junior High. During the last California fire storm the students collected more than \$1800 and four SUV's of pet food for the animals displaced due to the fires in San Bernardino. This was very heart warming, especially since the students initiated the project.

There was a public comment from a mother and father concerned about a recommended book in a 7th grade honors class. The board president han-

dled this well explaining to the parents the board could make no comment at this time, but would definitely look into the matter. The Board was then given a report on the two schools currently under construction. The meeting was professionally run and brief.. Everyone stayed on topic and followed the correct procedures. In my last report I had some questions about The Fullerton School District Meeting. I emailed president of the board, Minard Duncan and this is part of the answer I received.

The question concerning School Board Governance classes: "There are nine modules in the Governance Classes. They are presented on Fridays and Saturdays and are sponsored and presented free by the California School Boards Association". The question concerning consent items: "Consent items are done in Open Session at the very beginning of the board meeting, and then we recess to closed session."

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Enjoy the happiest 2008!

Until next time.

ANITA SMILEY, LWVNOC SOCIAL POLICY DIRECTOR

LWV Interview with Supervisor Chris Norby

Orange County Fourth Supervisorial District

On November 29, Lee Sjoström, Anita Larsen, and I visited Supervisor Chris Norby at his office in Santa Ana on behalf of the Interleague Organization of LWV, the four Leagues in Orange County. The ILO decided we needed to become familiar with the positions and goals of our individual county supervisors in League efforts to understand county issues. As most of our LWVNOC eight cities are represented by Supervisor Norby and he currently leads the board, I thought you all might be interested in his views. I will list the four questions we asked Mr. Norby and summarize his responses.

What do you believe are the biggest problems currently facing Orange County?

Norby opened his response with the comment that last year it would have been affordable housing but since the price of houses has been declining now it is less of a problem. He now believes transportation is a major issue. All the board members serve on the Transportation Authority-OCTA but they do not have direct control.

What are your goals for the coming six months or year for Orange County?

The supervisor is looking forward to the hiring of a Performance Auditor for the county government. This person would assess how efficiently county resources are being utilized. The county is renting office space in four buildings even though they own empty buildings in the Civic Center area. The county has a financial auditor but Norby was surprised when he came on the Board and saw that the sheriff's dept, which runs its own health program with \$16 million awarded by the County, had not submitted an audit to the board even though an audit was required in the original contract.

For longer term goals, Norby would like to see all fire departments in the county under county authority. He would reduce 24 hour fire personnel to a smaller crew to bring out the trucks and have the other firemen on immediate call with their equipment in the trunks of their cars. He sees savings in this by reducing personnel costs 70% and cutting stations by 50%. Paramedic services could be administered by private agencies.

The Supervisor would like to see the 57 freeway extend south along the river bed to the 405. This

section would have to be toll road as no government funds are allocated. Norby sees health care as a federal issue and foresees that we will have a single payer system.

He is concerned about some initiatives that produce a "slippery slope" for government officials citing "Megan's Law" as an example.

What do you hope to accomplish in your current term of office?

He reiterated the idea of hiring a Performance Auditor. When asked if they were hiring from outside the county, he said it would be an internal selection.

Are there issues facing Orange County that you did not anticipate when you ran for Office?

He sees now that we must have life long learning available as people no longer stay in one career and changing technologies force workers to increase their skills. He knows this is the responsibility of the colleges. He sees that globalization is here to stay and regrets the emotional hypocritical reactions to the immigration issues. Forcing deportation of workers that we need would be disastrous. He sees that the immigrants from Mexico are very similar in culture to Americans as a contrast to some of the groups currently migrating to European countries. He feels that those who fear immigrants should know that "by the time *they* take over, *they* are us."

He feels strongly that "all campaign funding reform is a fraud" The donations just go underground. He feels that no campaign donation limits should be imposed but that true transparency is needed so voters know who is contributing to which candidates.

Norby favors the term limit initiative to allow 12 years service in the state legislature in one house. Currently, when legislators term out of the Assembly after 6 years and then are elected to the Senate for 8 years the Assembly does not have the advantage of experienced legislators with the knowledge needed for good government. He supports this initiative even though the promised redistricting plan was not adopted.

BY MARY FUHRMAN, LWVNOC PRESIDENT

REDISTRICTING REFORM: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA ENDORSES CALIFORNIA VOTERS FIRST ACT INITIATIVE

REMARKS OF JANIS R. HIROHAMA, PRESIDENT LWVC
DECEMBER 3, 2007

The League of Women Voters of California is very pleased to support the California Voters FIRST initiative which will make the redistricting process one that is truly open and transparent and put the voters back in charge.

This proposal meets all the criteria that the League of Women Voters wants to see included in redistricting reform:

- An independent citizens Commission that has members who are qualified, balanced among the major parties while providing for others to participate, and representing the diversity of our state's population.
- Clear criteria, in priority order, for establishing districts, not only abiding by the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act but also recognizing communities of interest and the political boundaries of cities and counties.
- An open and public process.

This reform will take redistricting out of the hands of the legislature, with its backroom deals, influence of special interests, and partisan battles. Instead, redistricting will be debated in the open, with public hearings, sufficient notice to those who want to participate, committee deliberations in public and with all records posted on the internet. Proposed maps will be available for public review and comment prior to any decision. Every aspect of this process will be open to scrutiny by the public and the press.

The standard for drawing districts will ensure fair and effective representation that will not create safe seats for individuals or a party, or execute a deal created to protect incumbents. The interests of Californians of all backgrounds will be protected.

The California Voters FIRST Act is a crucial reform to the government process in California. League of Women Voters members around the state will work enthusiastically to help qualify this initiative and see that it is passed by the voters next November.

News About Our Judicial Independence Forum

Our Judicial Independence Forum sponsored by the Orange County League of Women Voters will be co-sponsored by Chapman University School of Law, Western State University College of Law, Orange County Women Lawyers, and the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County and Whittier Law School. The morning session will discuss such challenges and pressures as judicial selection, retention removal process, campaign financing and conduct and political threats to the courts. Dean John Eastman, Chapman University School of Law will moderate the panel consisting of Justice Richard Aronson, California Court of Appeals, 4th District, Division 3, Judge Glenda Sanders, Orange County Superior Court, William Kopeny, Esq., Chair, State Bar Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, UCI Bren School of Law. Justice Carol Corrigan, California Supreme Court will speak at the luncheon on "The View from the Superior Court."

The afternoon session, "Options and Potential Solutions" will be moderated by Former State Senator, Joseph Dunn, Esq. with panelists: Presiding Justice Joan Dempsey Klein, California Court of Appeals, 2nd District, Division 3 and Presiding Judge, Nancy Wieben Stock, Orange County Superior Court.

Reservations for the forum on **Saturday March 1, 2008, 9:00AM-3:00PM**, CSU Fullerton Titan Student Center, Cost \$35 including lunch and parking. Send check to LWVNOC, 4547 Everest Circle, Cypress, CA 90630, Phone 714-828-8624, www.lwvnoc.org Judicial Independence.

League Speaks Out With Others Against Proposed New House Office of Congressional Ethics

Our organizations are very disappointed that the Office of Congressional Ethics proposed today by the Democratic Members of the House Ethics Task Force fails to provide the Office with either subpoena power or access to subpoena power through the House Ethics Committee. This basic flaw should be corrected. The organizations include the Campaign Legal Center, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters and Public Citizen.

Our groups have called for the establishment of a new independent, professional entity in Congress to assist the House Ethics Committee in enforcing the House ethics rules. We believe such an entity is necessary to effectively respond to the complete breakdown of the House ethics enforcement process in the last Congress and to help ensure that the new House ethics rules are properly enforced.

Under the proposal for a new Office, which we have not yet had the opportunity to fully review, the Office is given the authority to make findings of fact regarding potential ethics matters and to recommend to the House Ethics Committee whether the matters should be investigated by the Committee.

The Office, however, is not given the powers that are needed to conduct effective fact-finding investigations. The Office is denied any form of subpoena

power, the tool that is provided to every congressional Committee that conducts investigations. Without subpoena power or access to subpoena power, the Office can be ignored in its efforts to interview individuals and obtain documents that may be central to the ethics matter at hand. The findings of fact by the Office, furthermore, are often likely to be limited to information that is already publicly available.

We recognize and appreciate the fact that the proposed new Office would provide, for the first time, a role for individuals outside of Congress in the process for enforcing the congressional ethics rules. Without investigatory powers to carry out its responsibilities, however, we are seriously concerned about the ability of the Office to effectively do its job.

We believe that it is not too late to address the problems caused by the failure to give the Office investigatory powers. We urge House Speaker Pelosi and the House Rules Committee to take the appropriate steps necessary to fix this basic problem by making in order and supporting an amendment to provide the new Office with subpoena power or access to subpoena power to carry out its responsibilities. We urge House members to support such an amendment.

STATEMENT OF REFORM GROUPS
RELEASED WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2007

Choosing the President 2008: A Citizen's Guide to the Electoral Process Now Available

The LWVEF has once again updated our comprehensive guide to the presidential election process, *Choosing the President 2008*. Read about the participants (the voters, candidates, parties, media, and who gives and who gets the money) and the process (the primaries and caucuses, nominating conventions, the general election campaign and Election Day). This book is an essential read for everyone – students, first-time voters and long-time voters – as we prepare for the 2008 presidential election. We are offering this exceptional guide at a discounted price of \$11.00! [Place your order now.](#)

READ WITH LEAGUE WINTER AND SPRING 2008

Come and join other Leaguers for informal discussions of books related to topics of current interest. The meetings are at 2:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month. Bring along a friend!

It's best if you have read the book under discussion, but join us even if you haven't had the opportunity to read it. For further information contact Ginny Haussmann, Membership Co-Director, at Virginiaaldh@aol.com or (714) 528-5854.

January 2008 No meeting.

February 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11

by Laurence Wright.

A riveting look at the people and ideas, the terrorist plans, and the Western intelligence failures that culminated in the assault on America. This insightful story is told through the interweaving lives of two al-Qaeda leaders, the FBI's counterterrorism chief and the head of Saudi intelligence.

Hostess: Dr. Kay Bruce, 6207 E. Twin Peak Cr. Anaheim, 92807 (714) 921-1308, Discussion Leader: Anita Larsen

March 13, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Make Them Go Away: Clint Eastwood, Christopher Reeve and the Case Against Disability Rights by Mary Johnson.

Starting with the premise that there is widespread misinterpretation and misapplication of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), the author looks at the case against disability rights. She responds with a compelling argument for defending the rights of the disabled.

Hostess: Fran Shermet, 9525 Normandy Way, Cypress 90630, (714) 220-1338, Discussion leader, Fran Shermet

April 10, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Letters to a Young Teacher by Jonathan Kozol.

In correspondence with a first-year teacher at an inner-city school, the author exposes what it means to be a teacher today. He covers controversial issues and the joys of teaching. An inspiring book.

May 8, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls

June 12, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

The true story of a wildly original, yet dysfunctional family, living a nomadic life in the U.S. Told with humor and compassion, this memoir affirms our faith in the human spirit.

Hostess: Lee Sjostrom, 2618 Shawn Lane, Fullerton 92831 (714) 879-4416, Discussion leader: Ginny Haussmann

June 12, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace - One School At a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Reine. The inspiring true story of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote and anti-American reaches of Pakistan and Afghanistan. An incredible story of a humanitarian endeavor.

CALENDAR

United Nations Association Annual Meeting, Brunch Sunday, January 13 11:30AM

Hacienda Restaurant \$25
1725 N College Ave
Santa Ana 714-538-5689
Speaker: Dr. Paula Garb
*Citizen Diplomacy Can
Make a Difference*
Reservations: 714-538-5689
info@una-oc.org

Primary Matters Public Forum

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 6:30PM
Fullerton Public Library
353 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, 92832

LWVNOC Board Meeting

**Tuesday, January 22
Noon-2:00PM**
Fullerton JUHS District Offices
1051 W Bastanchury
Fullerton 92635

Lunch with League Thursday, January 24, 11:30 AM

**Dr. Pat Ganer
Effect of Early Primaries**
SIZZLER Restaurant
1401 N Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, 92835
Reservations by January 22
Cost \$12. 714-254-7440
bfhf1951@aol.com

Community Forum Judicial Independence: Is Our Democracy In Danger?

**Saturday, March 1, 2008
9:00AM-3:00PM**
CSUF Titan Student Center
\$35 Including Lunch and Parking
Reservations to LWVNOC
4547 Everest Circle
Cypress, CA 90630
714-828-8624
lwnvoc.org

**REMINDER
Voter Registration
Deadline
For February 5th Primary
January 22, 2008**



**League of Women Voters
North Orange County
P.O. Box 3073
Fullerton, CA 92834**

Voter Editor

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LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

**February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election
League of Women Voters, WHERE WE STAND...**



NO ON [PROPOSITION 91](#) -- Transportation Funds

The League supports stable funding for transportation projects, but Proposition 91 is not the way to provide it. Measures like this remove the flexibility that our representatives need in crafting state budgets, especially in difficult times. Even the proponents of Prop 91 urge a NO vote on this measure, recognizing that its aims were accomplished by Prop 1A of 2006.



NO ON [PROPOSITION 92](#) -- Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees

Proposition 92 locks in new constitutional provisions that would mandate increased spending on K-14 education without regard to the overall state budget situation. It doesn't provide new revenues and thus it threatens our ability to address the state's other pressing needs. The League respects supporters' desire for adequate, stable funding and improved governance in the community college system. However, we cannot support further restrictions on the state's ability to fund all the programs that serve Californians, especially in our tight budget times.

NEUTRAL ON [PROPOSITION 93](#) -- Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office

This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the structure of legislative term limits. Without a package that includes reform of the redistricting process, it does not achieve meaningful improvement of the functioning of our state legislature.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in PROPS 94 through 97, Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts, the LWVC is taking no stand on those measures.

VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5