

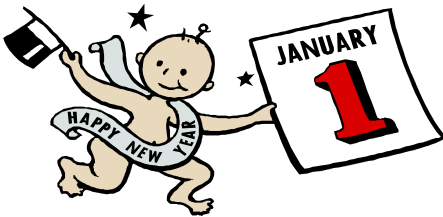


VOTER

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

Start the New Year Doing Something New



THREE SUGGESTIONS

Apply to serve on the Grand Jury. You will join 18 other jurors and investigate county concerns and also participate in criminal indictment hearings. Wanda Shaffer has served two times and says it's like getting a Master's Degree in county government. The deadline to apply is January 8 and applications can be found at

ocgov.com, and then click on grand jury. Do it! Applications are needed for each of the county's five districts. Contact Wanda Shaffer if you have questions, 714-525-6676.

Volunteer as a substitute League observer at Board of Supervisors meetings. This can be done via your computer or by attending the meeting at the Hall of Administration in Santa Ana. Wanda Shaffer, 714-525-6676 will explain how to get the agenda and background information.

Help revise our New Member Information Folder. The contents of the folder sent to all new members was compiled about five years ago. It is time to review it to make sure that it is up-to-date and

(Continued on page 7)

Lunch with League January 28: Don R. McCanne, M.D. Healthcare Reform: Where Are We Now?

Dr. McCanne, an advocate for accessibility and affordability of quality healthcare for everyone, will speak about the impact federal legislation will have on our healthcare system. He is dedicated to health care reform activism: speaking and writing extensively on universal health care and other policies for expanding health care coverage, access and affordability. He served as president of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) for two terms, in 2002 and 2003, and is currently Senior Health Policy Fellow for PNHP.

Dr. McCanne writes a daily health policy update, taking an excerpt or quote from a health care news story or analysis on the Internet and

commenting on its significance to the single-payer health care reform movement. PNHP posts Dr. McCanne's Quote of the Day messages at www.pnhp.org;

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about health care reform from a physician with Dr. McCanne's experience and expertise in the reform movement. Plan to attend and bring a friend. The public is invited to League events.

Lunch is from 12:30-2:00PM at the SIZZLER Restaurant, 1401 N Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton 92835. Cost is \$12. Choice of chicken, steak or salad bar. Reservations by January 26. Contact 714-254-7440 or bfhf1951@aol.com.

On the Road with Co-President Kay Bruce

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

OFFICERS

Kay Bruce & Wanda Shaffer
Co-Presidents

Arline Burgmeier, Vice President

Patti Chikahisa, Secretary

Marilyn Buchi, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Jeanne Blum & Marge Imbler
Co-Voter Service

Diane Dantas & Frann Shermet
Co-Membership

Joan Cohen, Program

Bette Frazier, Lunch with League

Mary Fuhrman, Action and Advocacy

Sue Fisher, Natural Resources

Pearl Mann, Government

Marguerite Lyon -Social Policy

The League of Women Voters is committed to making democracy work across the country and around the world. Join us in educating and encouraging men and women to be active citizens and address the issues that affect our lives—election administration reform, campaign finance reform, civil and human rights, citizen engagement, judicial independence and criminal justice, education, health care, urban sprawl and our natural resources.

Become a League Member

Go online to lwvnoc.org
and click "Join LWV"
or call 714-254-7440.

Mal and I are on our four-month United States road trip. We want to share with you a few of our observations of America and Americans.

1. Most Americans want to see the down turn in the economy ended immediately. Most Americans have been affected by the recession in some way, but when you go to restaurants, stores, and entertainments, the places are full. The fall in the stock market has caused many senior citizens to reevaluate their plans.

2. Most persons in the 26 states we have talked with are concerned about the lack of interest in voting. Local elections receive so little coverage by the media versus state or national campaigns.

3. The infrastructure of our nation is in dire need of support especially our interstate highways and bridges.

4. There are thousands of visitors from other countries visiting our national parks. These folks are interested in our country's scenery especially the Europeans who are amazed at the space and vastness of the countryside.

5. We found that communication is much easier this trip then ever before using email, cell phones, and the US postal service. We have access to all local, state and national League communications.

6. I took a webinar LWVC marketing course while I was in Florida. I learned that for marketing to be effective, every person on the board must be involved with the goals and outcomes. I learned about laws governing email that pertain to our League that we will investigate.

7. Lastly, we have learned that we have one of the most beautiful countries in the world with something new at each stop. here is a vast difference between the cultures in the East and the West.

I look forward to being at the January events. I especially would like to thank Wanda and the Board for all their work during these three months.

May each of you enjoy the holidays with your families. Wanda and I will be working together this spring on the many activities that make the LWVNOC unique.

Kay Bruce

The Golden Girls: Growing Old in Prison

On November 7th, 2009, Suzanne Darweesh, and I attended a symposium on *Growing Old in Prison* at the California Institution for Women in Corona. CIW has a special program for women over 55, initiated by a former prison warden called The Golden Girls, in which every woman over 55 is automatically enrolled. It assists them in challenging the rush lines, allowing choice of roommate, not having to climb to a top bunk, extra blanket and a double mattress, etc. I met many of these women at the symposium. I expected to encounter bitter, hardened women. Instead I encountered warm, friendly women with whom I would feel comfortable at Lunch with League. One woman (almost 80) received her BA while in prison; many others had received AA degrees. They seemed intelligent and articulate and it was hard to believe they had committed violent, serious crimes. As many said, they were no longer the same persons they were when they entered prison. They received counseling and education for self-awareness and maturity.

When some people enter prison, they receive a defined sentence which, when completed, means release. Others receive an indefinite sentence such as 10 years to life. After 10 years, they are eligible for parole. They need a psychiatric evaluation and recommendation; programs completed and behavior while in prison are to be considered. Parole Boards, appointed by the governor, tend to be people with law enforcement background and wary of paroles. Only 5% of the women appearing before parole boards are judged suitable for parole. From there, the governor must sign off on the parole. 75% of suitable for parole recommendations that go to the governor are denied. Many of the women in the over 55 group have gone to parole hearings over 10 times and been denied.

The Post Conviction Justice Project utilizes law students from USC to prepare women for their parole hearings and to produce writs of Habeas Corpus to challenge unfair parole de-

isions. This is very helpful to the prisoners and great experience for the law students.

"Crossroads", a large halfway house in Claremont, is a program where newly released women prisoners can stay for six months to adjust to freedom and changes in the world around them.

There are 172,000 prisoners in the state system. Under the current system, California has the highest recidivism rate in the country. While California is at the bottom of the 50 states in money spent on education per student, it ranks number 1 in money spent per prisoner. Deciding which prisoners to release on parole needs to be a system based on risk. Among the various risk factors, the most reliable is age. As a general rule, people become less dangerous as they age. In California, the number of prisoners 55 and older has doubled since 1997. Today, there are almost 20,000 prisoners over 50, including 717 over 70.

Where the average cost for a prisoner is \$45,000, the average cost for a prisoner over 55 is \$120,000. Why so much? State prisoners are not eligible for Medicare or Medi-Cal funding so the state bears the entire burden of the cost. A prisoner taken to a hospital must be accompanied by two guards so guards' adds to costs. With emergency room care and an overnight stay for tests and observation, the bill can easily be more than \$100,000. Treating the more serious diseases of aging greatly increases costs.

I regret that delegates to the California League of Women Voters Convention in Long Beach last June rejected a prison study proposal that many of us presented. If we had approved a study and developed a position, members would have an in-depth knowledge of the topic and LWVC would be able to advocate in support of our consensus. LWVNOC member, Suzanne Darweesh, is actively involved in Women in Prison projects.

SHIRLEY BLOOM, VOTERS SERVICE CHAIR
LWVOC INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

November 3

Departments requesting funds for hardware/software maintenance and license renewing are asked to give details about their needs for the purchases, about their investigations into other alternative companies, etc. Supervisor Nguyen is especially questioning these items. Chief Information Officer Satish Ajmani stated the economy is suffering but the technological systems are also aging and need updating.

Supervisor Moorlach, reinforcing his anti-union stance, asked the board to consider a second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending the OC codified ordinances to include provisions prohibiting the requirement of project labor agreements and other "anticompetitive measures" except where prohibited by state and federal law. Twenty-seven public speakers, presented views on both sides of the issue. Since this action is already an informal county policy and the county has the flexibility, the board was questioned as to why an ordinance was needed. The ordinance was unanimously approved.

November 10

Karen Roper, in recognition of Veterans Appreciation Week, stated that the county provides housing for 800 veterans, financed by bonds. The cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Garden Grove provide housing for 76 vets.

The OC Flood Control District received \$150,000 for on-call construction support services for the Los Alamitos Pump Station. This makes a new total of \$550,000. Did you know that this station is one of the largest in the nation? It can fill an Olympic size swimming pool in one minute!

There was much discussion over the Time Warner Telecom Holdings, Inc agreement for Wide Area Network services. CEO, Tom Mauk, recommended authorizing CEO/IT to amend the agreement to add or delete services not

to exceed 10% of the contract without further Board action. Supervisor Nguyen stated the contracts up for approval were presented with very little time to review. "Has the Board been manipulated by withholding information?" She wanted to hold off on accepting any contracts until the Performance Auditor report was presented. CEO Mauk agreed to hold off the amendment approval for 2 weeks; it will be discussed again at the Dec. 8 BOS meeting.

The BOS approved transfer and joint occupancy agreements with the Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the North Justice Center Trial Court facility in Fullerton and the West Justice Center Trial Court facility in Westminster. Presiding Judge Kim Dunning stated she would soon know of the county's financial responsibilities for the courts' parking spaces.

November 24

Supervisor Norby was absent. (His candidacy for the 72nd. District, replacing Mike Duvall, will face a runoff election on January 12, 2010.)

After a second consideration, the County Jails were allowed advertising signboards regarding Bail Bond Agents and Criminal Defense Attorneys. Other counties also gain monies from this. The vote was 3-1, with Norby absent and Nguyen voting no.

The Board approved the transfer and joint occupancy agreements with the Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the Juvenile Hall/Court Computer Systems Modular Building in Orange.

The Board will send a letter to the Governor requesting that the state cancel the sale of the Orange County Fairgrounds. The Board supports the sale only if it remains the OC Fairgrounds.

There is a predicted 2.5% property tax assessment reduction in the coming year. This is historic in the last 100 years! Proposition 172 revenues from sales taxes have been greatly reduced.

(Continued on page 5)

INFORMED AND ACTIVE

If you want to feel good about participating in our democracy and you want to do it the easy way, sign up for Action Alerts from LWVC and LWVUS. You'll only get eight to ten a year. Signing up is a three minute process and responding to the alert can take seconds!

Go to LWVC.org On the left side click **Act Now**. Click on blue **Sign Up Now**.

Go to LWV.org On the top bar click on **Take Action**. Then click on **Grassroots Lobby Corps**

That's all it takes for you to make a difference. Let us know that you are signed up for Action Alerts by emailing Mary Fuhrman. Our goal is to have 100 members participating. We will maintain a count and report on progress. Email maryfuhrman@pacbell.net

LEAGUE DELEGATION ATTENDS UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Caps on Emissions of 25 Percent Below 1990 Levels by 2020, Says League

A delegation of eight League leaders traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark as official non-governmental organization delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15). The delegation attended general and special conference sessions and reinforced the League's efforts and positions on curbing global climate change.

LWVUS President Mary Willson announced, "The League is calling on U.S. and world political leaders to cap emissions at 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. We hope that the United States will move beyond its current negotiating position and work for an international agreement that will truly address this critical issue."

"The 192 countries of the world need to produce an effective international agreement based on the best available science. In addition, it is critically important for our nation to agree to provide substantial assistance to needy nations in adapting to climate change," according to Carole Conors, who is heading the League's delegation.

"Here at home, our members will continue their work reminding elected leaders that they need to make the responsible and tough choices that will curb global warming and speed the transition to clean energy alternatives," Wilson concluded.

(Continued from page 4)

Frank Kim presented county budget items. Chapman University, Cal. State Fullerton University and UCLA all predict employment improving. But property taxes are affected by assessed values and unemployment. There is a predicted 2.5% assessment reduction in the coming year. (This is historic in the last 100 years!) Proposition 172 revenues from sales taxes have been greatly reduced. This especially affects the departments of the Sheriff and the District Attorney. The Board suggested formation of a working group that will meet weekly to address the current year and future five years deficits. The collaborative group would consist of the CEO, a Board member, the Sheriff, and District Attorney.

Julie Puentes of the Hospital Association and Drs. Mark Langdorf and Michael Fitzgib-

bons addressed the BOS during Public Comments. All stressed that if there is no funding increase there will be health problems for the county's 23 Emergency Rooms. "Doctors are leaving in droves and \$3million is needed now." The doctor pool is greatly affected. Medicare will cut 20% to doctors and "although they are willing to give back after getting scholarship help, etc., they are getting ten cents on the dollar. There is threat to public safety." For the last three out of seven years they have stated this problem to the Board. The BOS expressed their concerns and will try to address it at the December 15 meeting on the Budget Strategies plan for 2010 and the next five years.

BY WANDA SHAFFER
LWV OBSERVER, OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Read with League, Spring 2010

Book discussion meetings begin at 1:00 PM and last about two hours. It's best if you've read the book before the meeting, but you're welcome to attend even if you haven't read it.

January 7

***The Outliers* By Malcolm Gladwell**

This upbeat book sets out to understand success by focusing on outliers, men and women with skills, talent and drive who do things out of the ordinary. Yet success does not depend on innate ability, but rather on a wide array of factors, including opportunity and the rules of our society.

Hosted by Mary Fuhrman: (714) 523-1585

February 11

***The Forever War* By Dexter Filkins**

A definitive account of America's conflict with Islamic fundamentalism and a searing exploration of its human costs conveyed in a riveting narrative filled with unforgettable characters and astonishing scenes."

Hosted by Kay Bruce: (714) 921-1308

March 4

***She's Out There* By Amy Sewell**

Essays by 35 young women who aspire to be president of the United States. Their plans focus on diverse concerns and issues, including poverty, international relations, immigration, education, racism and sexism. Includes comments from current women in politics as well as a listing of female presidential candidates dating back to 1872.

Hosted by Gabriela Kolias: (714) 524-3962

April 1

***The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* By Jeffrey Tobin**

The Nine covers the main legal issues the Court has heard over the last two decades, including abortion, the separation of church and state, affirmative action, the Clinton impeachment, and Bush Vs Gove, which decided the 2000 election.

Hosted by Arline Burgmeier: (714) 828-8624

May 6

***The Housing Boom and Bust* By Thomas Sowell**

No single event caused the housing bust. Instead, a whole series of questionable decisions by many people, in many places, over several years built up the pressure that led to the sudden collapse of the housing market and of financial institutions that began falling like dominoes.

Hosted by Marguerite Lyon: (562) 431-0371

For further information, call Arline Burgmeier at (714) 828-8624 or email aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net

MEMBER STORIES

Meet Sue Fisher

I first became aware of the League about 15 years ago when League Member, Dr. John Olmsted, approached me and asked if I would attend a presentation sponsored by LWVNOC. I knew John because he was a faculty member in the Chemistry Department and I was the Radiation Safety Officer and Director of the Research & Instructional Safety Office at California State University, Fullerton. John thought I might be interested in attending an upcoming League of Women Voters meeting featuring a speaker about radioactive waste. He thought it would be interesting to get my perspective and perhaps lend some of my expertise in the field. As an educator at heart and always eager to help people dispel the myths about radioactivity and nuclear waste, I was happy to attend.

As I recall, I think it turned into more of a debate between the speaker and me, but let me just say that I was impressed with the League and its willingness to tackle "hot button" issues such as radioactive waste.

Soon after this, I was invited to join the League. As a member, I currently serve as Natural Resources Chair and have participated in many League activities, such as Candidate Forums and Community events.

What I really enjoy about the League is that the members are so dedicated to making everyone more involved with their government and their community. I am consistently impressed with the depth of knowledge of the members. I believe that my association with League has made me much more aware of my city and state government, and the importance of citizen involvement.

Do Something New This New Year

(Continued from page 1)

serves its purpose in acquainting new members with the goals and activities of the League. A committee is being formed to review the folder. Both veteran and new members (those who joined in the last two years) are needed.

We will meet two or three times this spring. If you are unable to meet during the day but would like to help, there are some at-home tasks to do.

Please email Arline Burgmeier at aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net or phone her at 714/828-8624 if you would like to work on this project.

CALENDAR

Read with League
Thursday, January 7
1:00-3:00PM

The Outliers
by Malcom Gladwell
 Hosted by Mary Fuhrman,
 Call 714 523-1585 or
maryfuhrman@pacbell.net

Lunch with League
Health Care Reform
Where Are We Now?
Dr. Don McCanne
Thursday, January 28
12:30PM-2:00PM

Cost \$12
 Choice of chicken, steak or
 salad bar
 SIZZLER Restaurant
 1401 N Harbor Blvd.
 Fullerton 92835
 Reservations by October 20
 Call 714-254-7440 or
bhf1951@aol.com.

LWVNOC Board of Directors
Thursday, January 21

Noon-2:00PM
 FJUHSO
 1051 W. Bastanchury
 Fullerton, 92635

*Note: Meetings of the Board of
 Directors are open to the mem-
 bership. Members are encouraged
 to attend.*



A History of Change A Future of Hope

**Local and State Leagues
Engaging the Community
in the League's
90th Anniversary Celebrations**



Carrie Chapman Catt, center, leads a group of suffragists in a New York City parade staged in the fall of 1917 to gain support for woman suffrage.

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

Voter Editor

Eleanor Fumanti
714-321-7394

mefumanti@comline.com

Current and past issues of
the Voter are available on
line and in color at:
www.lwvnoc.org

LWW: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK