



League of Women Voters
North Orange
County
www.lwvnoc.org

VOTER

February 2006

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.

Lunch with League: February 23 California Clean Money Campaign

Moira Brennan, Development Director for the California Clean Money Campaign, will speak at Lunch with League about the need for cleanly financed state elections. She will update us on Assembly Bill 583, the California Clean Money/Fair Elections Act which the League of Women Voters of California actively supports. This clean money bill uses a new performance-based system to allow strong candidates to receive full funding regardless of party, while controlling costs. It also has provisions that allow participating candidates to respond even better to attacks from outside groups.

The California Clean Money Campaign started its efforts in March, 2002 when it became increasingly clear that politics in California is dominated by the money chase, and not by the wishes of the

voters. The campaign's organizational efforts and the grassroots effort of volunteers achieved an unexpected success in getting A.B. 2949 through the Elections Committee in 2004—making it the first public financing bill to pass through an Assembly committee in years. A.B. 583 builds on A.B. 2949's success. It provides realistic public funding to candidates who show a broad base of public support by raising a qualifying number of signatures and \$5 contributions and agree to forgo all other private funds.

Take advantage of the interest in this topic and invite guest to join us on Thursday, February 23, 11:30AM-1:00PM at Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton. Cost \$12.

Reservations: 714-254-7449 or email:
lunchwleague@lwvnoc.org

Let's Celebrate the 86th Birthday of the League of Women Voters

Saturday, February 4, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Continental Breakfast and Salad Luncheon Provided by NOC League Board Members

Games and Prizes, Program Planning for 2006-2007

Video "The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony"

Board Room Fullerton Joint Union High School District Office

1051 W. Bastanchury (just west of Euclid)

RSVP to Arline Burgmeier (714) 828-8624 aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net
or to Frann Shermet (714) 220-1338 frannys@earthlink.net

Membership News

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER

We have something special planned for the spring that should be both interesting and fun. It's the Read with League series, NOC's own book club that will feature discussions on books related to current events and/or League-related topics.

We'll begin on **Thursday, February 16** with a discussion of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. (Please note the change of date from that originally advertised. The change was made to avoid a conflict with an ILO event on the 15th.) Shirley Bloom has generously offered her home for the Read with League evening, which begins at 7 PM. It's best if you have read the book before the discussion, but come even if you haven't read it and learn by listening and questioning!

Check the calendar on our website at lwvnoc.org or see last month's *Voter* for titles and synopses of the planned books, and look for meeting reminders

of dates in March, April and May in upcoming *Voters*. Call me at (714) 828-8624 or e-mail aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net if you have questions.

Please notify the League (Eileen Olmsted, Eleanor Fumanti, Wanda Shaffer or me) of changes in your address, phone or e-mail. We try to keep you informed about League events but this is impossible if we can't find you. Since we try to communicate as much as possible by e-mail, it's especially important for you to keep the League informed of e-mail address changes.

We have added two new members to our NOC League and are pleased to welcome them. They are Camille Goulet and Ginny Haussmann, both of Placencia. We're looking forward to seeing you soon at Lunch with League and other events.

There's been a date change for Read with League in April. The new date is Wednesday, April 5, same book, same time and location.

Mom and Dad, I Can Go to College

This year LWVNOC members have two opportunities to work with Patrick Henry Elementary school kids and their parents as a partner with North Orange County Community College School of Continuing Education (SCE). Last year we did this as a part of our Community College Grant. The dates are Fridays, February 9 and March 24 from 8:15 until noon. About 70 sixth graders and about the same number of parents will participate. The program will be presented in English for the kids and in Spanish for parents.

League volunteers will:

1. Act as Greeters and help with registration
2. Talk to the kids and parents as questions arise
3. Help individual students with their interest inventories
4. Walk with the kids to the bathrooms and to find water

Place: 1830 West Romneya Drive, Anaheim 92801, 1st floor, park in the back of the building. Enter from the back of the building. The program will be in the 1st floor Board Room. No parking tickets will be issued on either day so park any place except "Staff" or "Handicap."

Dates: Friday, February 9, Friday, March 24, Time: 8:15-Noon

Orientation: 8:15-8:30, George Dooley, SCE Counselor, will lead the orientation. Kids and parents arrive 8:30-8:50. Program starts at 9.

To Volunteer: Call Kay Bruce at 714-921-1308 or email her at kay-bruce@sbcglobal.net

Energy Consensus Meeting

Saturday, February 18 at Buena Park Library

Delegates to the 2003 convention of the League of Women Voters of California voted to undertake a study to update the LWVC position on Energy. Following the deregulation of California's electric system with the passage of Assembly Bill 1890 in 1996, LWVC interest in the topic of energy grew steadily. Since 1997, League committees have explored the implications of that legislation and have become aware of its profound impact.

During its work, the state study committee has developed valuable contacts with the energy policy community. But the public policy problems associated with a new electric system having both state regulation and a free market are different in kind and magnitude from those the League addressed before deregulation. Since last summer local Leagues throughout California have been studying information compiled by the

state committee and are working to develop consensus on an updated energy position. **Attend the LWVNOC Energy Consensus Meeting on February 18.** Our local energy committee members will present background information and lead us through the **Consensus Questions included on page 4-5** of this Voter. Our decisions on the issues will be sent to LWVC and used with decisions from other Leagues to develop an updated position from which the League will take action on the energy issues facing California today.

We will meet at the Buena Park Library, 7150 La Palma, from 9:00AM-1:00PM. A sandwich lunch will be served. Please enter the library through the rear door. For more information contact Eleanor Fumanti,
mefumanti@lworld.net 949-458-2218.

It's Easy to Use the LWVNOC Website

1. **Check the Calendar.** This is the quick and easy way to keep track of League events. The calendar includes full descriptions and location details of upcoming events for the current and future months.
2. **Read the Voter.** There are several advantages to reading the Voter on line. The online version looks better than the photo copied version, especially the graphics. The current issue of the Voter is often available on line sooner than it arrives by mail. You can press print and download your copy. Either download it to your computer or go to the website for current and past issues. You always know where it is when you need it.
3. **Email reservations for Lunch with League.** Just click on the link in the Voter and an email page should appear ready for your reservation. If this doesn't work just send an email message to lunchwith-league@lwnoc.org
4. **Get other information.** Our website is a good place to go for the LWVNOC phone number and mailing address. It has links to LWVC and LWVUS. It will connect you to all kinds of information about current elections and candidates for local and state office. You can contact LWVNOC Board members directly through our website email links.

Please consider reading the Voter online rather than a mailed copy. We will be collecting names of members willing to make the switch and plan to send those members an email announcement and table of contents once the monthly online version is posted.

Consensus Questions

Adopted by the LWVC board of directors July 10, 2005

1. Values: What values should be considered in electric policy decision-making in the coming decade?

Please indicate which of the following values you consider 1) vital, 2) very important, 3) somewhat important, 4) not very important. (No more than two 1s and two 2s)

	1	2	3	4
a) Reasonable rates	—	—	—	—
b) Customer choice of provider	—	—	—	—
c) Environmental protection	—	—	—	—
d) Reliability of service	—	—	—	—
e) Transparency and efficiency of government	—	—	—	—
f) Social equity and environmental justice	—	—	—	—
g) Encouraging a strong industrial base	—	—	—	—
h) Public participation in the process	—	—	—	—
i) Other [please specify]	—	—	—	—

2. Factors for consideration: In planning for acquisition of new electric resources, what factors merit consideration?

(Same 1-4 scale, and no more than two 1s and two 2s, as above)

	1	2	3	4
a) The diversity/mix of resources	—	—	—	—
b) Impacts on greenhouse gas emissions	—	—	—	—
c) Level of support for baseload power requirements	—	—	—	—
d) Availability at times of peak power demand	—	—	—	—
e) Dispersed (<10 MW capacity) generation	—	—	—	—
f) In-state vs. out-of-state generation	—	—	—	—
g) Impacts on the transmission grid	—	—	—	—
h) Potential sites for terrorist activity	—	—	—	—
i) Life cycle costs	—	—	—	—
j) Other [please specify]	—	—	—	—

- 3) Should investor-owned and municipal utilities in the state be expected to adhere to the same standards for renewable resources development, demand-side management procurements, and reserve requirements? Should all independent Load Serving Entities be expected to adhere to the same standards?
- 4) Since sites for power generation facilities and rights-of-way corridors are part of the statewide energy planning process, can you envision a process that would ensure that land be available for future energy development?
 - a) Should land-use planning for future infrastructure development be an essential element in state energy policy?
 - b) Should there be a requirement that a pre-CEQA assessment be conducted prior to designation or banking of particular lands?
 - c) What roles should the public have in terms of regional energy planning?
 - d) What roles and responsibilities should local governments have in regional energy planning?
- 5) We would like you to consider the impacts of customer choice and direct access on electric system reliability and customer rates. Specifically:
 - a) What would you be willing to pay for customer choice?
 - b) When direct-access customers leave the regulated utility system, the remaining core customers must pick up additional embedded costs, Should departing customers be required to pay their fair share of embedded costs?
 - c) Should an additional charge be imposed on departing customers, recognizing that there could be a negative effect on the integrated system?
 - d) What conditions should be imposed on customers that have left the regulated utility system if they wish to return to service by the utility?
- 6) At present there is some debate regarding the roles of state government in planning, owning, regulating and managing the electric power system.
 - a) Given that much of the generation is now owned by out-of-state companies, what roles can and should the state play in the regulation and management of an electricity market?
 - b) What could be changed to make planning and regulation a more transparent process?
 - c) The League has supported competent regulation at the state level to meet projected state energy needs, as well as to protect health and safety and the environment. What should the state's responsibilities and jurisdiction be in terms of the siting and the rate structures of facilities not owned by the investor-owned utilities, including proposed liquefied natural gas facilities?
- 7) Would there be advantages in having a single California Energy Agency with responsibility for energy planning, policy, facility permitting, operational integrity and regulation? Please list some advantages and disadvantages. What other alternatives exist if California is to have an effective planning and regulatory process for the energy sector?
- 8) The water sector—conveyance, treatment, end-use and irrigation pumping—is California's largest consumer of electric power, and the demands of the water sector for on-peak power are expected to double over the coming decade. What specific improvements in conservation, efficiency and forecasting could be carried out by water users to foster more effective use of both our water resources and our energy resources?

What Has Orange County Government Done For Me Lately?

Founders Event,
February 15, 6:00PM
**HISTORIC OLD ORANGE
COUNTY COURTHOUSE**
211 West Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana

Sharon Avey, Historical Education Coordinator, will conduct a tour of the historic courthouse, followed by a portrayal of the First Lady Lawyer in Orange County. In this interesting program, Ms. Avey, dressed in the costume of the day, relates in first person the life and experiences of this remarkable woman. In addition, Ms. Avey will give a historical view of women's suffrage in California, especially as it pertains to Orange County. The League of Women Voters Central Orange County Area first held this event several years ago, and those in attendance gave it an enthusiastic review!

All Local League members are invited to attend. The event is FREE, and will include light refreshments, FREE PARKING and an opportunity to meet and mingle with other Leaguers. Bring friends who would like to know more about LWV! If you wish to attend, contact Maria Solis-Martinez at 714-991-7645 OR Joan Hake at 714-245-0567 for more details.

You who attended learned some answers to this when about 35 League members met for the first "Every Member Meeting" of the ILO Know Your County (KYC) Study on January 21 at St. Joseph Center. The Honorable Bill Campbell (3rd Supervisorial District) Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, spoke and graciously answered questions for almost 2 hours. His presentation focused on the "HOT ISSUES Facing Orange County Today" and he distributed two documents to the attendees:

- * "Facts and Figures 2005" - a pamphlet of information about Orange County—history, population figures, budget information ("Sources of County Income" and "Appropriations"); and

- * "DRAFT TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT PLAN - Renewed Measure M—For Your Review and Comment".

Two issues which Chairman Campbell asked the League to give priority attention to are:

- * Renewal of Measure M. The current measure, a 1/2 cent sales tax to fund transportation projects, expires in 2011. The KYC Study Committee will seek more information about the renewal proposal and make information available to League members.

- * The Sheriff's proposal to increase the capacity of his department to review immigration records of persons incarcerated in the County Jail system, based upon the fact that U.S. Immigration personnel are only on duty to do this about 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. Some high risk persons could be in and out of County jails when U.S. Immigration personnel are not on duty. The KYC Study Committee will ask the Sheriff for more information about his proposal.

Before closing the meeting, the members listed the issues they believe are of highest priority for further League study, based upon both Chairman Campbell's list and ideas suggested by the members. To be notified of next steps of the KYC Study Committee email mebryden@adelphia.net I will email the documents distributed to attendees on Jan. 21 to anyone who requests them including answers to the "Test". The Study Committee welcomes any and all who want to join.

To learn a lot about Orange County government, check out <http://www.oc.ca.gov/> To learn more about the Orange County Transportation Authority and Measure M, check out <http://www.octa.net>

LWV Orange County ILO, through the KYC Study, is participating in the LWVUS Project "How Well is Homeland Security Working at Home" To learn about this, check out <http://www.lwv.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home> then click on Projects.

BY MARY-EVELYN BRYDEN, CHAIR, LWV OC KNOW YOUR COUNTY STUDY

Orange County Election Season Off to an Early Start

The election season in Orange County is getting off to an early start with the April 11 special election to fill a vacancy in coastal O.C. to replace state Sen. John Campbell (R. Irvine) who was elevated December 6 to the House of Representatives, succeeding Rep. Christopher Cox of Newport Beach who became chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. This election will be using paper ballots as the voting machines will not have print out capacity until the June 6 primary. Only five of California's 58 counties have electronic voting systems ready for the June primary (not including Orange County). A county's voting system must be certified by the state in time for counties to comply with state and federal mandates that voters be able to use the machines and verify their choices from a paper print-out. States cannot certify systems until they pass federal muster. Orange County ballots contain a serial number making it possible to tie the ballot to an individual voter—a violation of privacy requirements.

Two ballot measures have qualified for the June ballot: Library Bond measure (League supports) and Preschool for all (League takes no position). High Speed Passenger train Bond measure will be on the November 7 ballot. Thirty measures are still collecting signatures, five or six of them to invalidate state domestic partnership law and/or prevent same sex marriage.

League of Women Voters California Supports Library Bond Act of 2006

At its January 2006 meeting, the LWVC Board of Directors voted to support the library bond measure that will appear on the June 6 statewide ballot. If passed by the voters, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006 will provide \$600 million in general obligation bond funds for library construction and renovation. More information at www.yesforlibraries.com

The LWVC Board also considered the Preschool for All Act, an initiative that recently qualified for the June ballot. League off-board program directors and legislative consultants analyzed the measure from the standpoint of various League positions, especially Pre K-12 Education and State and Local Finances. The board's program committee decided to seek further information before making a recommendation to the board to support, oppose, or take no stand. As always, the board welcomes input from any interested League or League member. Please direct your input to Trudy Schafer, Program Director/Advocate at tschafer@lwvc.org.

CALENDAR

LWV Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 4

9:00AM-1:00PM FJUHSO

1051 W. Bastanchury

Fullerton, Details p.1

Mom & Dad, I Can Go to College

Friday, February 10

School of Continuing Ed.

1830 West Romneya Drive

Anaheim 92801

Details p.2

Historic Orange County

Courthouse Event

Wednesday, February 15, 6:00PM

211 W. Santa Ana Blvd.

Santa Ana, Details p. 6

Read With League

The Kite Runner

Thursday, February 16, 7:00PM

Shirley Bloom's

2609 Cypress Point Drive

Fullerton, 92630, 714-870-6593

Details p.2

Energy Consensus Meeting

Saturday, February 18

9:00AM-1:00PM

Buena Park Library

7150 La Palma, Buena Park

Details p.3

Lunch with League

Thursday February 23

11:30-1:00PM

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton, Cost \$12

Reservations: 714-254-7440 or

lunchwithleague@lwvnoc.org

LWVNOC Board Meeting

Tuesday February 28

FJUHSO

Noon-2:00PM

1051 W. Bastanchury

Fullerton

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. At the same time, we are wholeheartedly political, working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all women and men of voting age who are U.S. citizens.

Yes, I want to join.

Enclosed is my check for \$55.00 payable to LWVNOC.

Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

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

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