



League of Women Voters North Orange County

March 2008

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.

Lunch with League March 27th Immigration: Solving the Puzzle

Janna Evans has been with the federal government in various communications positions for 21 years. Currently, she serves as Regional Lead for Community Outreach, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She began her federal career in 1986 with the Department of Agriculture as a Public Affairs Officer. She spent two years working in Mexico City and shortly thereafter joined legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service as a Press Officer in Washington DC. In 1997, she moved to San Diego where she became the Bor-

der Patrol's first Community Relations Officer. Her objective is to foster meaningful two-way dialogue with external stakeholders and create a climate of trust and transparency. Ms. Evans has extensive experience working on both enforcement and benefits issues.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear about immigration issues from Ms. Janna's unique perspective. Join us on Thursday, March 27 at 11:30AM at Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton. Cost \$12. Reservations: 714-254-7440 or bhfh1951@aol.com.

Know Your County Every Member Meeting March 29 Health Care and Social Service Agencies

Programs for Orange County Residents

What does our County do for residents in need of health care and social services? A panel discussion of this topic moderated by Joan Cohen will feature Julie Poulson, director of Orange County Health Care Agency and Ingrid Harita, Director of Orange County Social Services Agency who will bring League members up to date on programs provided by their departments. Those people not eligible for federal safety net programs depend on the county to provide services. How well are needs being met? How are

programs financed and how are these programs impacted by budget and policy decisions of the state and federal government?

Join us at this Every Member Meeting presented by our Inter League Organization (ILO) on Saturday, March 29 from 10:00AM-1:00PM at the City of Orange Library, 407 E Chapman Avenue in Orange. (The library is close to the "circle" in the center of Orange.)

See page 2 for luncheon choices and reservation details

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

OFFICERS

Mary Fuhrman, President
Dr. Kay Bruce & Wanda Shaffer,
Co-VP Administration
Lee Sjostrom, Secretary
Marilyn Buchi, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Shirley Bloom, Pros and Cons
Jeanne Blum & Jerry Young,
Co-Voter Service
Arline Burgmeier & Ginny Haussmann,
Co-Membership
Deane Cassidy, Citizen Education
and Community Outreach
Joan Cohen, Program
Bette Frazier, Lunch with League
Eleanor Fumanti, Voter Editor
Gabriella Kolias, Advocacy
Fran Mathews, Natural Resources
Frann Shermet, Publicity-Marketing
Carol Bittle & Anita Smiley,
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, and our natural resources

Go online to lwvnoc.org "Join LWV" to **Become a League Member**, or call 714-254-7440.

League Member Directories

As of the end of January, the NOC League had 148 members. New member roster booklets have been printed and the listings have been updated to include members we have added during the last year. New addresses, phone numbers and e-mails were also updated to include changes reported by members. The new booklets will be distributed at all NOC events during the spring. If you are unable to attend NOC events and would like a booklet mailed to you, please contact Arline Burgmeier at 1-714-828-8624 or aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net.

The new booklet includes this notice: On February 23, 2008, the geographic region now served by the 714 area will add a new area code, 657. This means that calls in the 714 area code that are now dialed with seven digits will have to be dialed with eleven* digits: 1 + 714 + phone number. At the end of a six month grace period, calls not using the new dialing procedure will not be completed. (*In error, the notice in the booklet states that nine digits will be needed to dial in the future. The number of digits is actually eleven.)

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER, CO MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, LWVNOC

Reservations for Know Your County Meeting and Lunch March 29

The four choices of Box Lunches are being supplied by Jay's Catering. All selections come with potato or pasta salad, fresh fruit or pickle spear and home baked dessert

1. Tuna Salad Sandwich on European Country Oat Bread
 2. Vegetarian on Ciabatta Roll with lots of grilled veggies.
 3. Triple Decker Club Sandwich with layers of turkey, ham, bacon. Swiss cheese.
 4. Pesto Chicken Breast on Ciabatta, marinated grilled chicken breast with provolone cheese.
- The ILO Board will provide beverages.

Reservations for the meeting and the lunch must be received no later than March 25, 2008: Mail your name, and your choice of sandwich for lunch, and your check for **\$14.00** to

Shirley Bloom
2609 Cypress Point Drive
Fullerton. CA 92833

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My, what a lot we have done since the Saturday last year when Shirley Bloom, Kay Bruce, Wanda Shaffer, Sally Zivitz and I traveled to the Judicial Independence Forum sponsored by LWV Los Angeles at Loyola Law School! There we heard panelists of judges and lawyers discussing the influence of money and politics on our country's ability to maintain an independent judiciary. We were so motivated by the importance of this issue that on our way home, we planned our own proposal for a judicial independence grant extended to three phases including our own NOC forum, a Speakers' Bureau to inform civic groups, and a Know Your Judges plan to include more judicial candidate information on SmartVoter.org. With Kay's great grant writing skills, Wanda's expertise, and help of Bunny Ross from CAPO, we were extremely successful in receiving a \$7500 pass through grant from LWVUS funded by the Open Society Institute. We invited the other Leagues in Orange County to join us, and we were fortunate to have the Inter League Organization (ILO) further fund our efforts, now countywide, by \$4000.

These projects have brought the four Leagues together in such a great way that we are communicating and sharing other program ideas and becoming good friends.

However, in this Voter edition, I want to sing the praises of our LWVNOC members who have put together our March 1 forum of influential and prestigious advocates for judicial independence. **Marilyn Buchi** has headed the forum committee and chaired our monthly meetings at the Brownstone Café keeping us all on track.. **Susan Petrella** was invaluable in preparing public relation materials. **Frann Shermet** distributed press releases. And all the committee members are enamored with what **Pearl Mann** has done for us. She contacted and arranged for all the speakers, our judge and lawyer panelists, our Supreme Court Justice luncheon speaker, and Janis Hirohama, LWVC president. We have come to believe Pearl knows everyone in the state legal system. **Jeanne Blum** has made the arrangements at CSUF which required many visits and phone calls. **Kay Bruce**, as chair of the entire project with all her energy and management expertise, has been the leader extraordinaire as well as the printer of all sorts of material to enhance the projects. **Wanda Shaffer** and **Lee Sjostrom** from our Executive Board were very helpful in recommendations. **Arline Burgmeier** took over the reservations and registration job plus has been so helpful in editing our materials. Other members have stepped up to help. **Bette Frazier** is making the table decorations. **Lyman Burgmeier** and son-in-law will be hanging banners and helping with set up. We have had help from the other Leagues, including Sharon Holdt, Marcia Garten, Marilyn O'Brien, Linda Brown, Bunny and Joe Ross, but I wanted to especially thank our LWVNOC members in this message

Finally, I hope all of you have had the chance to read the articles on a fair and independent judiciary by Sandra Day O'Connor in the February National Voter and the February 24 Parade magazine inset to our local newspapers. To quote her Voter article, "*Judicial independence does not just happen all by itself. It is tremendously hard to create, and easier than most people imagine to destroy.*"

Mary Fuhrman
PRESIDENT LWVNOC



Janice Hirohama, LWVC President, will welcome participants and guests to our Judicial Independence Forum at CSUF on March 1.

The Status of Campaign Reform in Orange County

By Shirley L. Grindle

Following the indictment of 43 Orange County residents (including 8 elected officials and 9 county employees) in the early 70's AND after many failed attempts by the Board of Supervisors to enact campaign reform, the public took action to institute contribution limits. They did this by collecting over 100,000 signatures to qualify the TINCUP Ordinance for the ballot. Over 1500 volunteer citizens under the leadership of Shirley Grindle collected these signatures AND no one was paid one penny for doing so. Faced with certain approval by the voters, the TINCUP initiative was passed by a unanimous Board vote in Dec. 1978. Because it was qualified for the ballot and even though the Board enacted it, they still can not unilaterally rescind it or weaken it WITHOUT voter approval.

In June 1992 Grindle rewrote the TINCUP ordinance to close some loopholes and to make it simpler to monitor and comply with. The voters approved the revised TINCUP ordinance by an 85% approval rate and this is the ordinance (known as TINCUP2) which is in effect today.

Both TINCUP ordinances require enforcement of violations by the District Attorney's (DA) office; however, the current DA has refused to investigate or enforce any violations of this ordinance and for the 10 years he has been in office the county has had no enforcement other than what Grindle has been able to obtain on a voluntary basis by offenders. Since the DA is elected in his own right, the Board of Supervisors does not have authority to make him enforce violations of the TINCUP2 Ordinance.

Other major county jurisdictions have run into the same problem and have established "Ethics Commissions" to take over the education and enforcement of their local campaign laws. Since I have been the sole monitor of County campaign reports since 1978 AND the sole enforcer since 1998 and since I will not be here forever, I have proposed to the Board that they establish a modified "Fair Campaign Practices Commission" (FCPC) to take over what I do and what the DA

refuses to do. This Commission would deal solely with the local campaign law (TINCUP2) instead of acting as a full-blown Ethics Commission that deals with a broader range of subjects (namely, lobbyist registration, gift prohibitions, conflicts of interest, codes of ethics). This proposal was heard by the Board on February 5, 2008 and was denied on a 3/2 vote (Supervisors Bates, Norby and Nguyen voting against it).

Now – here is the really bad news. The three supervisors who voted against it are vehemently opposed to contribution limits EVEN though the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld them. In spite of the fact that the voters have enacted contribution limits (and there are limits at the Federal level, in numerous states, and in hundreds of local jurisdictions), these three Supervisors are imposing their views in opposition to resolving the enforcement problem. One of them (Supervisor Bates) has stated that "TINCUP2 is a bad law and I am not going to do anything to enforce it". (Ironically, TINCUP2 is considered the model ordinance for many jurisdictions in California and is judged one of the most successful campaign laws in the State.)

I will be pursuing other ways to overcome the arrogance of these three Board members who are defying the voters and depriving us of the right to have fair and consistent enforcement of our local campaign law. But I need your help. The likely third vote would be Supervisor Pat Bates -- but she needs to know how disappointed we are and that her personal views are not superior to the right of the voters to have our campaign laws enforced. If you support enforcement of the voter-approved TINCUP2 ordinance, please share your opinions with Supervisor Pat Bates, who may be contacted at: Supervisor Pat Bates 10 Civic Center Plaza Santa Ana, CA 92701, 714 834-3550 : Pat.Bates@ocgov.com

Editor's Note: *Shirley Grindle, Orange County campaign finance watchdog, presented this information to the O.C Inter League Organization in February.*

League of Women Voters Expresses "Deep Disappointment" in House Ethics Proposal

H. Res. 895, Establishing an Office of Congressional Ethics, "Will Prove Inadequate"

Washington, DC—February 27, 2008

The League of Women Voters today raised concerns about the latest proposal to reform the ethics process, which is expected to go before the House this week.

"This proposal does not provide the independent ethics enforcement process that the House needs to properly protect the public interest," said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. "The investigative powers of the proposed new Office of Congressional Ethics are simply insufficient," Wilson stated. "The proposal fails to provide the new office with access to subpoena power, ensuring that it cannot compel coop-

eration from outside entities and individuals, congressional staff and Members," she said.

"Voters in 2006 clearly reacted to the 'business as usual' approach that Congress took to the scandals that plagued the House. Voters continue to have high expectations for ethics reform. They want changes that will be strong and effective," Wilson said. "This proposal falls short. It will prove to be inadequate and will have to be revisited, probably when the next wave of public scandals arrives," Wilson continued.

"The League is deeply disappointed that this proposal is the best the House is willing, or able, to achieve," Wilson concluded.

League Celebrates 88 Years

This month marked 88 years of incredible League work on behalf of America's voters! Thanks to the hundreds of you who have shared your [birthday wishes with the League](#) just ahead of Women's History Month 2008.

Here are just a few of your inspiring notes:

- ◆ 88 keys on a piano. 88 years of League. Let the music continue.
- ◆ You are truly the League with a heart, a voice, and shared information which can create positive change.
- ◆ Still the best organization in America! Taught me most everything I know about organizing. Love it with all my heart.
 - ◆ You are the most underappreciated national treasure. You go, girls...doing a great job!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- ◆ When LWV speaks, civic leaders listen. Happy Birthday to a group that has earned respect because of all the hard work of its volunteers.
- ◆ With respect, love and gratitude from my grandmothers, my parents, my children, grandchildren - and self. From the bottom of my heart, body, mind and political soul - Women can and do change the world. Let's keep it up!
 - ◆ LWV is the standard by which I measure all other organizations.
- ◆ It is great to be associated with this wonderful organization which so many depend on for advice & information, especially in this election year!
 - ◆ The League continues to blaze a trail for women's equality. Congratulations!
 - ◆ We've come a long way baby!!!! The clothing changed, but not the sentiments!!!
 - ◆ AT 88 you still have the "it factor" and still rock.

Are Our Taps Running on Empty?

It's been raining but our water problems are not over. Over the long term California just does not have enough water to supply expected population increases without significant changes. In Orange County we get our water from local wells and from the Metropolitan Water District. All this water comes from the Sacramento Delta, the Colorado River, and from the Santa Ana River Watershed as rainfall percolates down into the groundwater. Each of these sources is in some kind of trouble. In fact, water experts speak of the "four horsemen of the (water) apocalypse."

The first "horseman" is the Sacramento Delta. Rivers from northern California feed it, and water is pumped out and sent to us via the California Aqueduct. Unfortunately, pumping destroys fish, and the delta smelt population is plummeting. As this tiny fish is lost, so are other fish populations. Last year a federal judge threatened to limit pumping by up to 30 per cent to protect the delta smelt. Some environmentalists say using the Delta as a water conveyor is incompatible with its health as an ecosystem.

Then there is the Colorado River that supplies water to both Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The Colorado River drainage area is in the 8th year of drought. Scientists say the area has had many 20-year droughts and some lasting 100 years, so we could be in for many more years of low water flow from that source. Making matters worse, original agreements on dividing water from the Colorado River were made during wet years, and more water was promised to different states than normally exists. Climatologists also predict that climate change will result in less water from mountainous areas all over the West.

Finally, consider population growth. Southern California is growing rapidly. Our pattern thus far has been to build more and more distant housing developments. Along with these far flung developments come streets, freeways,

and humongous parking lots. Water that should sink in and replenish our ground water instead runs off, picking up oil, worn rubber and brake linings, animal waste, and more. This doesn't mention all the fuel used, CO2 released, or traffic congestion but that's another story.

Building denser housing would help solve the dual problems of more people and polluted run-off. Land, carefully chosen according to natural drainage patterns, would allow rainwater to filter down into the groundwater and along the way provide flood protection. Open space would also provide animal habitat, as well as park and recreation areas. Most of us might not think of apartment living as the best choice. But, given some time and thought, maybe denser housing plans could be developed that would be not only tolerable, but even preferable to what we have now. Additional advantages would be less fuel and CO2, possibly more walking and biking, and much less cost to build sewers, roads, etc.

The drought hasn't gone away, though, and we need to make changes right now. In that regard, grass is our biggest enemy, and also offers our biggest way to save. Experts say that if we reduced our lawns by 50% and watered them only as much as they actually need, then overall water use would decrease by as much as we currently take from the Colorado River. Almost any type of shrubbery uses less water than a lawn. To imagine whether decreasing lawns would help, consider the change in sewer flow since 1990. Between 1990 and 2007, population increased about one-third (from 1.8 to 2.5 million). At the same time sewer flow *decreased* 15%. The single biggest reason was widespread installation of low flush toilets. A relatively simple change applied to many households gave a large overall beneficial change. Making obvious changes in water use could bring similar benefits.

BY FRAN MATHEWS
LWVNOC NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Read with League, March 13th Make Them Go Away

*Clint Eastwood, Christopher Reeve and the
Case Against Disability Rights*

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

Read with League book discussions are now meeting in the afternoon at 2:00PM. Join us on Thursday, March 13th at 2:00PM at the home of Frann Shermet, hostess and discussion leader, 9525 Normandy Way, Cypress, 90630, 714-220-1338. 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.

THE CLIMATE PROJECT

A Presentation on Global Warming

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Cal State Fullerton

Titan Student Union

Pavilion C

2555 E. Nutwood Ave.



Presentation based on Al Gore's award-winning documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth"

Learn about scientific evidence on global warming

Discuss solutions to global warming

Representative Loretta Sanchez will host "The Climate Project" presented by Lance Simmens on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. Simmens, Special Assistant to Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, completed rigorous training led by former Vice President Al Gore and a team of renowned scientists to spread the message about the threat of and solutions to global warming. The Climate Project is a presentation on the scientific evidence on global warming and a call to action in addressing the problem. **Space is limited.** To R.S.V.P. please contact Catherine Curtis at 714-621-0102.

CALENDAR

Judicial Independence Forum

**Saturday, March 1,
9:00AM-3:00PM**

CSUF Titan Student Center

Cost \$35, Including
Lunch and Parking
714-828-8624

Read with League

**Thursday March 13
2:00 PM**

Hostess: Frann Shermet
9525 Normandy Way
Cypress 90639
714-220-1338
Discussion leader:
Frann Shermet

Lunch with League

Thursday, March 27

Domestic Violence

11:30AM-1:00PM

SIZZLER

1401 N Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, 92835

Reservations by January23

Cost \$12. 714-254-7440

bhfh1951@aol.com

Know Your County

Saturday, March 29

10:00AM-1:00PM

Reservations by March 25

Cost \$14

Send check to Shirley Bloom

2609 Cypress Point Drive

Fullerton, 92833

Voter Editor

Eleanor Fumanti

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mefumanti@comline.com



**League of Women Voters
North Orange County
P.O. Box 3073
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With more than 88 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



We support the **California Voters FIRST redistricting initiative** and will participate in signature gathering and the campaign to pass it in November 2008. This reform will enable voters to choose their legislators and eliminate the conflict of interest that occurs when legislators draw the lines and choose their constituents.

The League has pledged to do its part. So we're calling all League members to rally to the cause and help us get those signatures. First, every member will receive a petition with three signature spaces. Sign it yourself, get two more signature from your family, friends or colleagues and send it in. Second, volunteer to take more petitions and get additional signatures.