



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 26
George J. Giokaris, Ed.D.

Fiscal Challenges Facing Schools



George J. Giokaris, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Fullerton Joint Union High School District, will speak at March Lunch with League about the dramatic challenges facing school districts in California. George is currently completing his 35th year as an educator in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. After teaching at Buena Park High School between 1974 and 1983, George served as an Assistant Principal at Sunny Hills High School for four years. Be-

tween 1987 and 1989, George was the Principal at Buena Park High School, and then returned to Sunny Hills High School, as Principal until 1993. Between 1993 and 2003, George worked in various administrative roles, including Director, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. George was appointed Superintendent on February 1, 2004.

Please plan to join us at 12:30PM on Thursday, March 26th, SIZZLER Restaurant, 1401 N Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, 92835. Reservations by March 24th. Cost \$12. Call Bette Frazier at 714-254-7440 or bfhf1951@aol.com.

Consensus Meeting, Wednesday, March 11

National Popular Vote Compact Study

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College, and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

Leagues throughout the United States are studying the pros and cons of the NPV Compact and will be holding meetings to develop consensus on the issue. Each League comes to agreement on a list of questions supplied by LWVUS. Our national position will be developed from the local responses and will then be used for League action and advocacy. This grassroots process of developing policy positions is the democratic way of ensuring that our positions represent the voices of our members.

Our LWVNOC consensus meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11, 10:00AM at the Placentia Library, 411 Chapman Avenue. Come and add your thoughts to our discussions. For information contact Wanda Shaffer, 714-525-6676, wshaf6676@aol.com. To see the questions and get background information go to www.lwv.org Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to speak to this good-government issue.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE PROJECT COMPLETED

The four chapters of the League of Women Voters of Orange County, California, have completed an eighteen month Judicial Independence Project using a grant from the LWV Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional & Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute. Approximately 100 League members participated in the project, presenting information on Judicial Independence to over 80 community groups, organizing the Judicial Independence Community Forum attended by over 150 persons, and developing questions to interview judges who were running for office. Street banners were hung in five cities advertising the www.Smartvoter.org website for information about judges running for office.



Kay Bruce presents final Judicial Independence Grant check to ILO President Sharon Holdt

Several television stations devoted air time to the project. Our Judicial Independence story aired on television stations: PBS (KCOE)- 10 minutes on REAL Orange, two half hour shows on a community station in Orange County, one fifteen minute show on a Long Beach community service station and a thirty minute show on a Vietnamese station, SBTN-TV, Saigon Broadcasting Television Network which broadcast in both English and Vietnamese. The ILO supported the project with a \$4,000 match for the LWVUS grant. The ILO was presented a \$2,000 check as a return on the money given for the project, which will be used for future joint League projects.

To each of you who worked on any segment of the grant, our deepest appreciation for your time, energy, and knowledge. We look forward to working together on the next grant or project. Together we stand stronger as we work for democracy. Thank you.

BY MARY FUHRMAN AND KAY BRUCE, JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE PROJECT CO-CHAIRS

Being Green(er)—Hints from the Rocky Mountain Institute Website

The League is great at working to help curb CO₂ emissions by educating ourselves, talking to people, and urging government action. But there are also many individual actions we can take. For a thorough discussion go to the Rocky Mountain Institute website (www.rmi.org) and look for "Publications." According to their analysis, it is possible to save 86% of household power by making all possible upgrades and 50% in heating and cooling by plugging leaks, insulation, and using natural movement of air. Water is the next biggest energy user, where real savings are also possible. A few suggestions require only changing our habits. Turn off lights when leaving the room, clean furnace filters and refrigerator coils more often, turn down the temperature in the water heater, take shorter showers, wash clothes with cold water (90% of the energy for washing clothes is used to heat the water), and air dry clothing in good weather.

We can also change the way we cook and eat. Open the refrigerator door less often and for shorter times. Put lids on pots when cooking, use

a slow cooker or microwave when appropriate instead of the oven. Bringing foods from faraway countries is a huge energy expense. Buying locally grown produce when in season saves energy and puts more money into the local economy. Buying in bulk can save packaging, therefore energy. Try eating vegetarian. You might even be healthier.

Other changes are only nominally expensive, such as buying fluorescent light bulbs and a power strip to disconnect the power to our computers, printers, etc., when not in use. If you cook with electricity, trade in your old warped pots and pans for ones with flat bottoms, and clean the reflector pans under stovetop burners. Outside, plant trees and shrubs to shade your roof and walls. Shading your air conditioner can save 10% of its energy use. Keep shrubs or vines a bit away from the walls to allow air circulation.

The Rocky Mountain Institute website discusses many other more expensive changes, such as insulation and new appliances. Check it out: www.rmi.org

BY FRAN MATHEWS, DIRECTOR LWVNOC NATURAL RESOURCES

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We all wanted to breathe a sigh of relief when the state budget was finally passed, but I fear California's money troubles will continue. The special election on May 19 will have six budget initiatives presented by the legislature to partially close the gaps between revenue and expenditures. There is little guarantee that they will pass. The League will be sending you information about the May budget measures and we will also be working to inform the public.

I periodically receive the results of statewide surveys on public policy issues from the Public Policy Institute of California in collaboration with The James Irvine Foundation. The January issue shows the Governor and state Legislature's approval ratings have fallen. Residents are very supportive of a plan to strictly limit the amount that state spending could increase each year, with 70% calling it a good idea and 24% saying it's a bad idea. A majority of voters (54% and likely voters 53%) are now willing to replace the two-thirds vote requirement for budget passage with a 55% majority threshold. This is the first time the topic has received a majority in favor since they started asking the question in June, 2003.

Our program planning for suggestions for LWVC convention resulted in approval for a state study on Prison reform, recommendation and support for water conservation issues including urban areas, broadening Civics Education for both students and adult groups, and protection and respect for Voting Rights

Upcoming events will include an Orientation breakfast for our newest members at Ellen Ballard's home on March 7. We also are planning a few evening meetings for those members who couldn't attend the day time sessions of our National Popular Vote Compact study.

We all owe Kay Bruce much appreciation for the enormous number of hours and great leadership she donated to our Judicial Independence grant activities. Please note the report on our completion of this project for which we won the Orange County Bar Association award.

Mary Fuhrman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We'd like to welcome new members Lee Baum from Garden Grove, Connie Phillips from Orange and Suzanne Weissbart from Fullerton. Thank you for joining League and we look forward to meeting you at League functions.

New and prospective members are invited to the Saturday, March 7th **Brunch With League—Get Acquainted Event** to be held at the home of Ellen Ballard, 1434 Richmond Knoll, Fullerton, CA 92835 from 9:30-11:30AM. Please call Arline Burgmeier at (714) 828-8624 or Frann Shermet (714) 220-1338 if you are planning to attend.

Up to date **Membership Roster Books** are now available at all League functions. Or you may call Arline Burgmeier at (714) 828-8624 to have a copy mailed to you.

At **Read with League** this month, we will be discussing a particularly timely book: *The Second Civil War* by Ronald Brownstein "How extreme partisanship has paralyzed Washington and polarized America." We'll meet on Thursday March 12 at 1:00PM at Lee Sjostrom's, 2618 Shawn Lane, Fullerton, 1-714-879-4416. It's best if you have read the book before the meeting, but please come even if you haven't. Information: call Frann Shermet at 1-714-220-1338.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

By LWV Observer, Wanda Shaffer

Carrying Concealed Weapons

The permit battle between Sheriff Hutchens and the Board of Supervisors raged on! Again there were over a hundred in the overflow audience. However, only 41 chose to address the BOS as opposed to the 60 speakers last time. Representatives from the National Rifle Association and the California Rifle and Pistol Association spoke. The Sheriff continues to meet all concerns with quiet dignity and Chair Pat Bates did a masterful job trying to keep the large audience respectful and courteous. The meeting concluded with Chair Bates statement that BOS and the Sheriff will continue "to agree to disagree". The topic will not be addressed again. Sheriff Hutchens has the authority to revoke CCW permits and BOS can only strongly urge her to consider the Board and the public's concerns.

Regarding the derogatory text messages that some of her staff privately sent on county-owned equipment, Sheriff Hutchens stated that this was wrong and she was sorry it happened. There is now new policy language to address this issue.

Regarding the deputy secretly videotaping the audience, zooming in on Supervisor Norby's notes for a minute and Supervisor Nguyen's text messages for 30 seconds, Sheriff Hutchens has launched an internal investigation.

Regarding the number of deputies and undercover officers at the January BOS meeting, the Sheriff said that at previous meetings she was aware of distressed people addressing job losses, angry citizens concerned about losing their CCW permits, and rumors of possible dissident behavior. She felt it was wise to provide adequate safety for the Supervisors, staff, and audience. There was no intimidation intended, she asserted.

Regarding sharing the video with the BOS, "I'm willing to share the entire video with the BOS but first I must obscure the faces of the undercover investigators in the audience to ensure their protection."

Regarding the revoking of CCW permits, "This action in no way restricts citizens from having

guns in their homes." Since Sept. 2008, the Sheriff has repeated that she must uphold California laws. The CCW law states that "good cause" must be shown in order to hold a permit for carrying a concealed weapon. This gives the Sheriff jurisdiction to offer exceptions to "good cause." She feels you must be at a greater risk than others to have "good cause." Sheriff Hutchens consulted with the Dept. Of Justice and asked for the option of changing the expiration date reentry so there will be no permit revoking record that could affect a background check.

The BOS directed CEO Mauk to investigate a possible contract with an independent security agency instead of continuing their contract with the Sheriff – Coroner. Sheriff Hutchens assured the Supervisors she is working on conduct, policy enforcement, and necessary departmental change "It is a long, steady job. It happens over time."

Boards, Commissions, Committees

Supervisor Moorlach asked the CEO to list the BCCs that have been dissolved or are no longer active in OC or have been merged with another BCC since the last review in Nov. 1977. There were 34 such BCCs.

TINCUP Ordinance Amendment

There was a unanimous vote to amend Section 1-6-5 and 1-6-6. These amendments adjust the limitations on campaign contributions. Contributions shall be adjusted in January of odd numbered years to reflect any increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index. It is thus increased from \$1600 to \$1700. (The TINCUP ad hoc committee has met twice and will continue in the coming months.)

OC Second Quarter Budget Review

This review highlights economic woes with a significant increase in unemployment, an increase in bankruptcy filings, a rise in foreclosures, a continued decline in home values and consumer spending. The state budget crisis grows. The 3rd. quarter Budget Report will occur May 5. Public Budget Hearings are scheduled for June 9 and 10.

Sherriff Sandra Hutchens The Orange County Sherriff's Department

On February 20th, 50 plus Leaguers and members of AAUW came together at the Mission Viejo Country Club to hear comments from our new Sheriff, Sandra Hutchens. She spoke for thirty minutes and then graciously took many questions from the audience.

Sheriff shared many details about department



services ranging from Neighborhood Watch to Homeland Security. The Orange County Sheriff's Department is a multi-faceted agency composed of approximately 4000 staff members and over 800 reserve personnel. It consists of five organizational func-

tions divided into 20 divisions. The core services provided by the department are: Public Protection (patrol of land, harbors and coastline), Homeland Security, Court and Airport Security, Emergency Communications, Jail Operations and Technical Services including investigations, coroner services, emergency management and centralized Countywide communications systems as well as Administrative support services. Sheriff Hutchens shared that in her capacity as a law enforcement officer in LA, she did not have the duties of being the coroner and that this has been a new experience for her but one that she finds quite interesting. She also explained to us how our local Sheriff's Department works with the federal government and immigration services through the jail. This is part of what is called the cross training program and she feels that it has been very successful. She shared with us that when we went home and watched the news later in the day, we would see that an arrest had been made in Tustin with regard to terrorist activity here in Orange County.

Twelve cities in Orange County contract with the Sheriff's Department for police services. The

department also provides security services for many agencies in the County including Orange County Superior Court, John Wayne Airport, Orange County Transportation Authority, Social Services Agency and the Health Care Agency. Sheriff Hutchens said that she is proud to report that 97% of their clients, the residents living in the areas that they patrol, feel safe in their homes and communities. The areas patrolled by the Department are statistically the safest in the State when compared to areas of similar population and delivery of service.

Sheriff Hutchens began the day by sharing a little bit of her life experiences as a new patrol deputy officer on the streets of LA. It was widely felt at the time that female officers should not be out on patrol but you know how pushy the female population became in the 70's with women's lib (my comment not hers) and the LA Sheriff's Department decided to try a pilot program with I believe she said 5 officers out on the streets. She was alone in the police car when she patrolled and her area bordered Compton and other parts of South Central. She stated that there were many double takes when they saw her alone in the car in certain neighborhoods. The uniform that they had to wear consisted of high heels and a mini skirt and they had to carry their gun in their purse!!!! Needless to say, they proved themselves as we see many more female officers on the streets and in patrol cars.

Sheriff Hutchens spoke about the problems with the concealed weapons permits and explained to us as she said that she has to others that she is just following the law as it is written on the books. She has met with the NRA and told them that where they should be exerting their energies is changing the law if they do not agree with it.

In closing, Sheriff Hutchens shared with us that she is enjoying being our Sheriff even in light of all of the recent problems and that she plans to run again in 2010.

**BY SHARON HOLDT
PRESIDENT, LWVOC INTER LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

American Politics: A New President and a New Congress

Dr. Pat Ganer Speaks at January Lunch With League

North Orange County League of Women Voters kicked off the new year with a luncheon speaker who is a favorite commentator on political matters. Pat Ganer, PhD, regularly teaches courses on political communication at Cal State Long Beach and at Cypress Community College. She says she likes to get off-campus and meet with concerned adults who aren't likely to ask "will this be on the test?"

Dr. Ganer presented her thoughts on the title topic to Lunch with League at the Sizzler in Fullerton on January 22nd. She pointed out that the news media like political changes because it gives them new people and ideas to write about. This election presented a really new President and a newly organized Congress for them to work on. Ganer feels the perceived "bias" of the press coverage is due largely to the emphasis on the "new."

This presidential election provided, not just a change in parties, but a change of historic significance between the outgoing and incoming Presidents. The most evident and most talked about was, of course, the change in ethnicity. The election of Barack Obama has been noted and, in many places, celebrated world-wide. The long term effects of the change upon both the people of color and the formerly always-dominant Caucasian are hard to predict. Certainly one effect on non-white children will be to broaden opportunities for their future lives.

But the other differences between Bush and Obama, as seen by the public, are numerous. They include:

A "generation change". Though Obama is not many years younger than Bush was when elected, he is viewed, especially by younger voters, as "one of us."

Obama is promising transparency in government; the Bush administration preferred secrecy.

Obama seeks out a variety of advisors; Bush claimed he "didn't have to listen to anyone."

Obama made extensive use of communications technology during his campaign, and says he will continue to use it to keep in touch with voters; Bush has had very little contact with the voters. (One possible negative for Obama could be intense pressure from his supporters, who are impatient to "get things done").

Obama will call upon citizens for help and some sacrifice when needed; Bush told Americans to go shopping.

Obama will reverse Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib.

Obama brought the City of Washington DC into the inauguration; Bush spent much of his time at Camp David or Crawford, Texas.

Obama emphasized the difficulty of the problems facing the country; Bush said "Bring 'em on" and "Mission Accomplished".

Obama (and family) are seen as "Cool." Michelle Obama, is in evidence; Laura Bush and the daughters were seldom visible.

The list could go on, but the point has been made that this presidential election has brought more changes than any in recent history.

The changes brought about with the new congress are much less evident. For one thing, both houses were already in Democratic control (barely), so the changes will appear only as the term goes on. In addition, the leadership of both houses is unchanged. Neither leader has been notably strong. In past administrations, House Speakers and Senate leaders have often been prominent players in national debates.

Some Republicans in the Senate may play an important role, due to the fact that the Democrats will not have the 60-vote majority needed to block filibusters. Senator John McCain may support some Democratic issues, as may the two notably moderate Republican women from Maine – Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins.

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER LWVNOC

LOOKING FOR AN EXCITING WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN A NEW PROJECT? THIS IS FOR YOU

Our League is trying to increase our community ties and to be even more of a "go to" source. We are starting a LWVNOC Observer Corps, an opportunity for public engagement and citizen education—the cornerstone of the League's mission.

Please consider volunteering to serve as your city's liaison to this effort. We need sixteen members, two observers from each city to monitor their city council meetings. These council meetings are usually held twice a month and they also have multiple cable broadcasts. With two Leaguers from each city (co-observers), you have the option of taking turns and covering for each other when a vacation or illness occurs. One can choose to be the "armchair" observer using the cable telecast or can attend in person. A simple two-sided report page is used, which can be handwritten or put on the computer. The Observer is asked to watch the council proceedings and make a short report; they are not there to assume something is wrong. The purpose is to learn what is happening and to protect the public's right to know, and in some cases, to offer the League's expertise on a subject. They will not be asked to publicly address the council, but their presence at each meeting will be noticed and they will be wearing a League name badge.

The Observer reporting should be easy and flexible. An initial observer orientation meeting will be given so that all observers are confident of their roles. The report form is then given to the Observer Coordinator who will funnel the information and make recommendations to the League leadership about possible follow-up action. Publicity and reports about the Observer Corps' activities will be included quarterly in the VOTER and there will be updates on the League's website.

Please call Wanda Shaffer, 1-714-525-6676, or email, wshaf6676@aol.com, if you have questions or are interested in being a new member of this endeavor. It is another way to share the League's record of nonpartisanship and provide us with a unique opportunity to improve and strengthen communities.

CALENDAR

**Brunch With League
Get Acquainted Brunch
Saturday, March 7
9:30-11:30AM**

Home of Ellen Ballard
1434 Richmond Knoll
Fullerton, 92835

Info: Arline Burgmeier 714-828-8624
Frann Shermet 714-220-1338.

**National Popular Vote Compact
Consensus Meeting
Wednesday, March 11**

10:00 AM to 12 noon.
Placentia Library,
411 E Chapman

**Read with League
The Second Civil War
By Ronald Brownstein**

Thursday March 12, 1:00PM
Lee Sjostrom's, 2618 Shawn Lane,
Fullerton, 714-879-4416.

**LWVNOC Board Meeting
Thursday, March 19
Noon-2:00 PM**

Fullerton JUHS District Offices
1051 W Bastanchury
Fullerton 92635

**Lunch with League
Thursday, March 26, 12:30 PM
George J. Giokaris, Ed.D.
Fiscal Challenges Facing Schools**

SIZZLER Restaurant
1401 N Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, 92835
Reservations by March 24
Cost \$12. 714-254-7440
bfhf1951@aol.com

Volunteer As a Split Shift Poll Worker For the May 19th Election

League members can volunteer to work the polls for half a shift at the special election on May 19th. LWVNOC member, Jerry Young works with the Registrar's office and coordinates our two member teams. At recent elections, members have donated their stipend to the League so the program works as major fund raiser for us. To Volunteer, call Jerry at 714-525-4037.



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

LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

LWV Capistrano Bay Presents
Healthcare Crisis Program
Saturday, March 28, 2009, 9:45AM-Noon
Mission Hospital Conference Center
26726 Crown Valley Parkway, Mission Viejo
*Use Los Altos entrance off Crown Valley
to parking structure. (no charge)*

Guest Speakers:

Former State Senator Joe Dunn J.D.
Julie Schoen, J.D., Legal Counsel for HiCap
Bill Honigman, M.D., Emergency Room Physician

Admission is free and open to the public
Information: 949-496-1858, 949-366-6609

Voter Editor

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