



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

VOTER

April 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, Thursday, April 27, 2006

KARLENE W. GOLLER

First Amendment Counsel, Los Angeles Times

As fervent supporters of open government and the peoples right to know, LWVNOC is fortunate to have an expert on threats to media independence as speaker at Lunch with League on April 27, 2006.

Karlene W. Goller serves as First Amendment counsel for the Los Angeles Times, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for the Los Angeles Times, and Senior Counsel/West Coast Media for Tribune Company, and Tribune's other California newspapers. Ms. Goller is responsible for all aspects of newsroom counseling and litigation, as well as intellectual property matters. She also represents the papers in connection with legislative and policy matters at the state and federal levels. Goller is a member of the board of directors and serves on the government affairs committee of the California Newspaper Publishers Association. Take advantage of the timeliness of this topic and invite guests to join us on Thursday, April 27, 11:30AM-1:00PM at Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd. Fullerton. Cost \$12.

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

Enron: The Smartest Guys In the Room

As an outgrowth of our League study of electricity deregulation, members and family and friends enjoyed this academy award nominated documentary at a League video party on March 12. If you missed the event and would like to borrow the video, contact Wanda Shaffer at 714-525-6676 wshaf6676@aol.com

FBI Action Perceived As Intimidation

On March 14, Common Cause President Chellie Pingree participated on a panel on open government sponsored by the **League of Women Voters** of Berrien and Cass Counties, Michigan that received news coverage in the local newspaper on March 17.

A week after the panel, an **FBI agent contacted the local League president, Susan Gilbert**, to raise questions about Pingree's published remarks at the panel. In her brief comments addressing the law, Pingree raised some privacy and secrecy concerns about the USA PATRIOT Act, and praised Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) for their leadership on Freedom of Information issue.

According to Gilbert, FBI agent Al Dibrito said that Pingree's comments on

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Membership News

League Directories Available

It is a pleasure to welcome Vivian (Kitty) Jaramillo of Fullerton, who recently joined our League. This addition brings our membership total to 143. In fact, Kitty joined just in time to be listed in the latest version of our blue member roster booklet. The booklet was recently revised to reflect the changes in our membership over the last year. Copies of the new booklet will be available at all League events this spring, including Lunch with League. If you are unable to attend any League events, please call me or email me (714/828-8624 or aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net) and I will mail a booklet to you.

Please check the calendar published in each issue of the *Voter* or listed on the NOC website (www.lwvnoc.org) for news of upcoming events. Attending League events is a great way to get acquainted with fellow Leaguers, learn something about government affairs, and support your organization.

LWVNOC Nominations

2006-2007 Board

The LWVNOC Nominating Committee under the leadership of Eileen Miller is meeting to develop a proposed slate of officers and directors for the 2006-2007 League year. Nominations for vice president, treasurer and directors will be proposed to the membership at our annual meeting on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at Embassy Suites in Brea. If you would like to suggest nominees for the upcoming slate, please contact Eileen Miller at
714-526-2460
rojomiller@earthlink.net

Read with League

Join with other Leaguers for an informal discussion of a book about a topic of League or current interest.

April 5, Wednesday 7 PM Shirley Bloom's House
2609 Cypress Point Drive, Fullerton 714/870-6593

Critical Condition

by Donald L. Barlett & James B. Steele

"...award-winning investigative journalists Donald Barlett and James Steele expose the horror of what health care in America has become, profiling patients and doctors trapped by the system and offering startling personal stories that illuminate what's gone wrong." (Quoted from book back cover.)

May 16, Tuesday 7 PM Joan & Burnie's House:
1531 West Oak, Fullerton 714/525-0023

Founding Mothers by Cokie Roberts

This book tells the inspiring story of the women who worked behind the scenes to build our nation during the American Revolution. In an era when women were expected to tend to hearth and home, these courageous founding mothers worked to create a free nation while coping with pregnancies, children, absentee husbands and hostile British soldiers.

It's best if you have read the book before we meet, but join us even if you haven't.

Arline Burgmeier, Membership Co-Chair

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Women's Heart Health Forum

A Women's Heart Health Forum will be presented by Donna Nash and Dr. Archana Sheda of Anaheim Memorial Hospital on April 8, 2006, from 10:00 AM to noon at Orangethorpe Methodist Church, 2351 W. Orangethorpe at Brookhurst in Fullerton. Donna Nash RN is Executive Director of the hospital's cardiovascular services and leads the women's heart health program. Archana Shende MD specializes in Internal Medicine with emphasis on heart health. The forum will focus on heart disease as the greatest health risk for women and will include information on advancements in prevention and treatment of women's heart health. Heart healthy refreshments will be served. The public is invited to this free program which is sponsored by LWVNOC and AAUW Fullerton.

At the forum, Anaheim Memorial Hospital will invite women to schedule a personal cardiovascular screening for only \$20 during the month of May. Physician referral is not required. The screening includes a: Heart health risk assessment, Nurse consultation, Blood pressure, height, weight, and girth measurements, Body Mass index, Body composition analysis, Lipid/glucose screening, EKG, Personal health guide and results report, Woman's survival kit, and Individual nutrition plan.

CAMPAIGN WATCHDOGS

Elections are coming soon, Primary in June, General in November. Candidates file campaign reports showing money they get in and money they pay out. These reports are filed with the State, County or City depending upon the race. Those who hire a professional treasurer usually have no problem. If they or their neighbor do the reports, they better watch out. State office candidates use professionals, city council and school board may not.

What's needed is citizens to be watchdogs. All candidates need to be watched. When candidates know this is happening they will be more careful. State candidates file with Sacramento and the information is on the internet. City candidates file with their City Clerk and a few cities now have this on their web site. If you would like information about: how to find web sites for State level candidates, getting city filing procedures info, how to "read" Forms used for filing, what's available from Fair Political Practices Commission and more! There's someone available to help. It would be a pleasure. You can call Coast League member Larry Gallup 714-846-2483, lkgallup@earthlink.net

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

PO Box 3073
Fullerton, Ca 92634
714-254-7440

OFFICERS

Eileen Olmsted, President
Eleanor Fumanti, Vice President
Jane Bonfanti, Secretary
Fran Mathews, Treasurer

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Arline Burgmeier
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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. Go online to lwnoc.org and click on "Join LWV" to become a League Member, or call 714-254-7440.

LWVNOC Legislative Interviews

Assembly Member Lynn Daucher

Each year, League members throughout California interview state legislators, giving the League and legislators a chance to exchange ideas before League focuses on specific legislation. LWVNOC interviewed Assembly Member, Lynn Daucher and State Senator Bob Margett.

Margett's Senate District 29 includes Brea, La Habra, Placentia and Yorba Linda, among others. Interviewers were Molly McClanahan, Florence Cavileer and Janie Bonfanti. Margett requested his interview be off-the-record. Therefore, it is not included in this VOTER.

Lynn Daucher's Assembly District 72 includes Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia and Yorba Linda. League interviewers were Michele Weber, Florence Cavileer and Wanda Shaffer. Daucher's responses to the questions specified by LWVC follow.

California continues to face the problem of a gap between revenues and state expenditures. It is expected that the gap of the past few years will continue. In general, three strategies can be found to deal with this gap: 1) cut state spending; 2) raise revenues through tax or fee increases or by discontinuing certain tax expenditures (i.e., tax credits, exemptions, deductions); and 3) generate revenue

by floating state general obligation or revenue bond issues.

Which of these would you choose?

Daucher: no to tax increases. Supported cuts in spending, but they are usually in the COLA. We can manage a bit better and haven't exhausted spending reduction. Did support bonds to finance the deficit, but can support bonds for infrastructure. One time windfall income should be used to pay debt. No to tax-increases services

What should the legislature do to ensure that all Californians have access to health care?

For a start we need to draw down all Federal tax dollars. 300 million Federal tax dollars were lost. Managed care for Medical was voted down. Orange County Cal Optima has managed care and is a good program. The reality is that we can't get to universal health care in the next two years, we have to chip away at the problem. SB 840 comes down to money. Has objections to government running program, doesn't buy into single payer system. Hopes that the Federal government takes care of the problem of Canadian drug imports. Tobacco

taxes should not be used for anything we really care about, as people stop smoking, the tax stops too. Daucher says she is an incrementalist, get things going in right direction. It is better for the legislature to write the laws.

Would you support a legislative effort to place a proposal on the ballot to vest authority for redistricting in an independent commission?

Supports an independent commission and will look at any good credible proposal. It is not necessary to have a vote to adopt a redistricting plan. She is flexible. She warned that this in itself will not fix Sacramento.

What are the major issues that you see the legislature must deal with in 2006? What are your personal priorities?

Education and long term care for seniors. We need to build more water storage facilities. The amount allocated for debt services should not be more than 6%. Education needs more flexibility, local boards need more authority to spend money. Wants county tax equity. Orange County tax dollars are siphoned off to San Francisco.

BY SALLY ZIVITZ
LWVNOC GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR

Orange County Board of Supervisors
TRENDS

The calendar year for the Board of Supervisors started on 1/10 this year and Mr. Campbell was re-elected chairman for another term. He said he enjoys the job, but wants to make the meetings shorter and proposed a reduction in the number of presentations that occur at the meetings. He wants to present resolutions at a meeting of the group being honored. He also promised to set a specific time for lunch, from noon to one. All the staff people, and members of the public, who spend hours that often go past noon waiting for their item to come up will appreciate this.

Mr. Norby finally moved up a notch; he is vice-chairman now and, if normal practice is followed, that puts him in line for the chairmanship soon. But there is no limit on the years in each job, so we shall see. January 2007 will see a different board: Mr. Wilson and Mr. Silva will be gone, termed out; and Mr. Correa is planning to run for the vacant Senate 34th District seat so he may be gone too. The voters will decide who comes in their stead.

In the time he has left, Mr. Wilson wants to make sure his on-going efforts for projects in

South County get results in time; one he is proud of is the Dana Point Harbor revitalization plan, which the county has approved and it now goes to the Dana Point city council and the Coastal Commission.

Another is the progress being made in building a new South County Courthouse. The appropriate state office has promised -in writing!-that the state will join with the county in funding the project; next comes design, construction bids and, some day, a building. The supervisor said firmly it would happen on his watch. Mr. Campbell expressed worries about the funding; if the county issues debt, he wants an assured revenue stream, perhaps by legislation. Nothing is sure, apparently, until the money is paid.

Mr. Silva is the longest sitting supervisor, joining the board in January, 95, just after the December 94 bankruptcy, and he has insisted ever since that money should be put aside every year to pay for the resultant debt. Now he would like to take his fiscally conservative ideas to the California legislature and will run for the 67th Assembly district, June primary election.

As they do the week's business, the supervisors reflect their special interests: Mr. Correa has begun to question whether contracts with private companies for such things as landscape maintenance on county facilities include health benefits for workers; they inevitably do not, and he votes no.

Mr. Norby spearheaded the move to put county Measure A on the June ballot. This is a county ordinance to prohibit the exercise of eminent domain for private purposes on county owned land. Mr. Norby has very firm ideas about redevelopment, which frequently uses eminent domain. He thinks redevelopment high-jacks taxes needed to support vital public services Mr. Norby also doesn't think much of statistics that sort people by race; he comments that Hispanic isn't a race and that many people now are of mixed racial heritage anyway. This apropos of the data in the recently released 2006 OC Community Indicators.

There was an interesting discussion about the governor's bond proposal and whether the board should take a position one way or another. The county

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Two Views

Eminent Domain and Redevelopment

Eminent Domain and Redevelopment are important factors affecting the way our communities are growing and changing. Two views on this topic were presented to Lunch with League on March 23 at the ROP Culinary Arts Institute in Fullerton, by two qualified local spokesmen: Councilman John Beauman of Brea, who has been actively involved with that city's redevelopment for the past five years, and Steven Greenhut, a Senior Editorial Writer and Columnist for the Orange County Register, where he has worked since 1998. He is also author of "Abuse of Power: How the Government Misuses Eminent Domain", published in 2004.

Each speaker made a 12-minute presentation, followed by Question and Answer periods between the two speakers, and from the audience. Councilman Beauman, speaking first, illustrated his presentation with a series of charts describing Brea's Redevelopment Program which was established in 1972.

Brea had acquired what became known as the Brea Mall development, which resulted in a stream of revenue from sales and property taxes, but also contributed to the decay of the old "downtown". The Redevelopment program was recharged as a result of a 1989 community planning effort involving resi-

dents, businesses and other parties interested in defining the "new downtown". The program took off after the Community Redevelopment Law Reform Act of 1993, which called for the adoption of five-year plans, starting in 1994.

Brea used the Community Vision resulting from the planning effort as a basis for the five-year plans, starting in 1994. The implementation of

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General agreement that
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Permits the application
of Eminent Domain to
projects specifically
for public use"

these plans, continuing today, has been achieved with heavy use of the Redevelopment process. Funding is provided by insured bonds, repayment to come from the increment in property and sales taxes ascribable to the redeveloped properties. Thus no funds are taken from the General Funds in the City's Budget.

The redevelopment efforts in Brea have drawn attention from, among others, Sunset Magazine in their February 2006 issue, recognizing Brea as one of the five best places to live in the West, and the champion "Bounce-Back" suburb, based on

its redevelopment efforts and achievements. Housing projects in the 2000-2004 time period resulted in 646 dwelling units through assisted rehabilitation, as well as new cottages, condos and lofts in the downtown area. Also 200,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space plus two new movie theaters and a modest comedy club (in vacant commercial buildings).

No mention of "eminent domain" was made during the presentation, but under questioning, it was stated that Brea had a "willing seller" policy, achieved with independent appraisals and negotiated settlements.

Mr. Greenhut's free-wheeling, often humorous presentation emphasized the abuse of Eminent Domain. Examples demonstrated the use of the threat of eminent domain as a way of driving owners off their properties. In particular, he presented examples (from various parts of the country) in which eminent domain was used to acquire property which was subsequently transferred to another private owner, typically a developer. This usually resulted in acquisition at a price lower than market.

There seems to be general agreement that the United States Constitution permits the

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Eminent Domain and Redevelopment

application of Eminent Domain to projects which are specifically for public use, such as roads. But the application of the process was broadened to include projects which resulted in public benefit (such as increased taxes paid to the city) even when public use is denied. In a case in Connecticut in which residences were taken to make way for luxury residences, the Supreme Court upheld the action. Sandra Day O'Connor wrote a dissenting opinion in that case.

Both speakers acknowledge that eminent domain can be, and has been abused, and that redevelopment can be poorly managed. Public disclosure of details and careful oversight of projects are essential to the proper use of these powerful tools.

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER LWVNOC

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FBI Action Perceived As Intimidation

the USA PATRIOT Act were “way off base,” and that the League should have invited someone from the federal government to be on the panel and to respond. DiBrito then told Gilbert that she would be contacted by someone from the assistant U.S. attorney’s office in Grand Rapids to give her the real story on the Patriot Act.

“Citizens can be intimidated when an FBI agent calls and questions their activities,” said Kay Maxwell, President LWVUS. “Why should a citizen meeting on open government merit the attention of the FBI?” said Pingree.

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Orange County Voter

wants projects, particularly if other jurisdictions get some, but bonds are a general fund obligation and bond payments would come out of whatever discretionary spending the state can manage, which could cut something else.

Board members said they could only support bonds if tied to a specific revenue stream. The county lobbyists were instructed that the board would have no position on the bond itself, but if there is a bond, have to fight for a fair share.

Then there is the issue of paying for the department that does plan checks for developers. It is supposed to support itself from fees. But development is down and it is costing the county General Fund money. The man from the Building Industry Association said service could be improved by outsourcing; the CEO said he would have to meet and confer with union before making staff changes. No decision in public, it went to closed session.

BY: TRICIA HARRIGAN

LWVOC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OBSERVER

CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00PM

Read With League

Critical Condition

Shirley Bloom's House
2609 Cypress Point Drive
Fullerton
714-870-6593

Saturday April 8, 10:00AM

Women's Heart Health Forum

Orangethorpe Methodist
Church, 2351 W. Orangethorpe
at Brookhurst in Fullerton

Tuesday April 25

LWVNOC Board Meeting

FJUHSDO

Noon-2PM
1051 W. Bastanchury
Fullerton

Thursday April 27

Lunch with League

11:30-1:00PM
Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd
Fullerton, Cost \$12
Reservations: 714-254-7440 or
www.lunchwithleague@lwnvoc.org

Thursday May 4 at 6:00PM

**Healthy Children Equal Healthy
Communities**

Fullerton Public Library
353 W Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton

Tuesday May 16, 7:00PM

Read with League

Founding Mothers

Joan and Burnie Cohen's
1531 West Oak, Fullerton
714-525-0023

Open Government and Your Right To Know
TELL US YOUR STORY

Have you tried to get public records from your city? Was your city staff helpful? Are there black holes in your community's response to your requests? We are looking for first person accounts of seeking public information. Tell us the agency you were dealing with, and any other pertinent information, such as wait time for response to the request, fees required and so on. Tell us about your successes. Did you encounter any obstacles?

Open government is a right held by every American citizen whether the information is from a federal, state or local agency, or whether you are rich or poor. There should be no limits – other than obvious ones, that is those involving national security or privacy. Your personal story will help our League to better understand the level of governmental openness in our North Orange County cities. Contact us at 714-254-7440 or send an email to info@lwvnoc.org.



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

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Women's Heart Health Forum
April 8, 10AM
2351 Orangethorpe, Fullerton