



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

# VOTER

Summer 2007

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

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.

## Major Grant Awarded to LWVNOC

### Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution

**T**he League of Women Voters Education Fund with funding from the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute has awarded a \$7500 pass through grant to LWVNOC on behalf of the four Leagues in Orange County who will work together on the project. Programs will focus on building a mass of informed citizens by exposing them to the critical issues facing our judiciary and prepare them to defend the merits of protecting access to a fair and independent judiciary.

At the LWVUS convention in 2006, a panel of judges presented a program outlining the problems with the loss of independence in the judicial system through intimidation, heavily financed campaigns against judges on the ballot after an unpopular decision, and efforts to get constitutional amendments in states requiring all judges to be elected. Protecting an independent judiciary has become a major focus of Leagues throughout the nation.

Orange County Leagues will be approaching the issue with three projects. Project I is "Know Your Judges," which will post information about judicial candidates on our Smart Voter website. Project II will be the establishment of a League Speakers Bureau to inform civic groups about the judicial system with the goal of reaching 2000 people. Project III is an all day forum to be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at CSUF. Two five-member panels of judges, lawyers, and law professors will be discussing the problems and solutions.

A strong lead committee is already in place. In addition, there are many opportunities for members to contribute. One way to participate is to join the speakers bureau where you would be trained to give talks to community groups about the current structure of the judiciary and about threats to its independence.

To volunteer, contact:

Dr. Kay Bruce, 714-921-1308 or  
kay-bruce@sbcglobal.net

#### **Tour of Registrar of Voters Facility**

**Tuesday, July 10  
10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Meet in Fullerton  
at 10 AM

Carpool to Santa Ana

Optional  
Restaurant Lunch  
On return to Fullerton

More Info  
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**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  
Gabiella Kolia, Advocacy  
Fran Mathews, Natural Resources  
Susan Petrella & Sally Zivitz,  
Government  
Linda Rogers, Development  
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](http://lwvnoc.org) and click "Join LWV" to **Become a League Member**, or call 714-254-7440.

## Membership News

When the 2007-08 League year begins on July 1, Ginny Haussmann will become my new membership co-director. I look forward to working with her, but will miss working with Wanda Shaffer. Wanda, the outgoing co-director, will become the co-vice president of administration, a League position that she will be juggling with her second appointment to the county grand jury.

Over the past membership year NOC added 26 new members. The most recent to join are Patti Chikahisa (Fullerton), Mary Danko (Placentia) and Marge Imbler (Yorba Linda). Welcome to you all. Our total membership is now 151.

**Hello Summertime** activities will take place during June, July and August. They are offered to give members some informal opportunities to get better acquainted with one another. The activity schedule is printed on a separate page so you can stick it on your bulletin board or fridge for easy reference. I hope you'll join in the fun.

Our popular **Read with League** book club will resume in September. If you would like to suggest a "must read" book, please call me or Ginny. Anita Larsen will be working with us, too. Please also let us know if you would be willing to host a book discussion in your home. (It's pretty easy: coffee, cookies and chairs to sit on.) The book list for the fall will be printed in the August *Voter* and will also be posted on the NOC website: [www.lwvnoc.org](http://www.lwvnoc.org).

Also in August you will receive a membership renewal notice in the mail so you can continue to be a part of the League during the exciting 2008 election year.

**BY ARLINE BURGMEIER, MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR**

## Orange County Inter League Organization

On June 2, the ILO of Orange County met at St. Joseph Center in Orange. LWVNOC will have three representatives on the ILO Board this year, Vice President Linda Rogers, Voter Service Director Shirley Bloom, and Know Your County Director Mary Evelyn Bryden. The program selected for emphasis this year is "Know Your County" with focus on services for poor people at the Health and Social Services Agencies. Continued emphasis will be on Natural Resources and Land Use, County Welfare Reform Programs, Santa Ana River Project Authority, and Juvenile Justice.

## From our President Rally in the Valley

**F**our North Orange County delegates attended the May LWVC convention held in Bakersfield. Wanda Shafer, Kay Bruce, Linda Rogers, and I set out with the idea that we really wanted to get to know delegates from the other three Orange County Leagues since we will all be working together on the Judicial Independence projects. We were successful in this, as all Orange County delegates wore orange pins and sat together for several of the plenary sessions and shared ideas and information picked up at caucuses. Orange County League activities got the attention of the entire state. Adding to this, **LWVNOC** won **two awards!!** We were one of five in the state to **Meet the Challenge** for 2006-2007 and we also were one of two middle sized Leagues to win the top **Voter Service** award. We will receive a rebate on state dues for those new members that helped us make our 5% growth target.

State convention has many of the same actions as our local annual meeting. We elected new state officers and directors. Janis Hirohama, from Manhattan Beach is our new LWVC president. We adopted the proposed program for 2007-2009 with a few revisions that brought on some spirited debate and we adopted the LWVC Issues for "Education and Advocacy" from those that had the highest number of local League recommendations. Health Care, Education, and Redistricting will be the issues we emphasize over the next two years. The latter drew a lot of discussion as a group wanted to have an update of our position on Redistricting which would possibly lead to supporting multi-member districts and proportional voting. This motion and other changes were eventually turned down by the delegates. Since Redistricting is a current issue in the legislature, doing an update of our position would put our current position on hold and interfere with our input in the Sacramento debate.

Some updates were approved for the Education and Energy policies. The \$378,000 budget for LWVC was approved with no increase in per member payments this year. Delegates approved eight amendments to the by-laws including a change to acknowledge the LWVC's new audit policy. The convention passed several resolutions including ones for support of voting rights in D.C., the need to educate communities on life style changes needed to protect the environment, asking the California Energy Commission to defer licensing renewal of nuclear power plant until completion of an analysis of the costs, benefits, and risks from operation of aging nuclear power plants, and calling on the Governor to consider LWVC Finance position as the state's budget for 2007-2008 is adopted.

Being with this group of dedicated, informed, and intelligent people was an exciting experience. The LWVC convention in 2009 will be in Long Beach.

*Mary*



Orange County Delegates at  
LWVC Convention in Bakersfield

MARY FUHRMAN, PRESIDENT LWVNOC

# Technical Career Education Today

## Preparing the Workforce for Tomorrow

**M**any adults of middle age or beyond have memories of Vocational Ed being shop for boys, and sewing cooking or typing for girls. At LWVNOC April Lunch With League Dr. Patricia Frank, Superintendent of the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program provided an introduction to the drastically changed face of Vocational Ed in today's California schools. To kick off the presentation, Dr. Frank read a list of occupational programs currently being offered. The list included such specialties as Computer Graphics, Medical Billing, Telemetry, Building Technology and a score of others. In spite of the availability of courses such as these, and the unmet needs for trained employees in several of these fields, students in middle and high schools are being directed almost exclusively to college preparatory courses, with entrance to a college as the goal.

To underscore the importance of this disconnect between the over-emphasis on academics and the reality of the post-high school world, Dr. Frank presented a picture of the fate of a hypothetical class of 20 youngsters entering high school. Data from California records indicate that, typically, six of the twenty will drop out before graduation. They will compete for the small number of jobs not requiring a high school diploma. Six will graduate and not go on to other training. They will compete for the 10% of jobs which require only a high school education.

The remaining eight will enroll in some college program. Four will graduate with a four-year degree, and will qualify for some of the 30% of jobs requiring college graduation. The four who do not get a degree may, with luck and good guidance, seek training at a Community College or other institution and may qualify for one of the 60% of jobs requiring specialized, post-secondary training.

It is evident that the system as currently set up trains almost enough with 4-year degrees (but not necessarily in the right fields), produces too many without any post-secondary education, and not enough in the "high school plus special training" category. The last category is addressed by ROP.

The Board of Directors of the California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (of which Dr. Frank is Past-President) has set up a program to achieve a better fit between the curricula of the ROPs and the requirements of the workforce of tomorrow. A set of Model Curricular Standards is being refined, with the aim of helping to guide students and ROP providers through the maze of courses and occupational needs. The utility of these standards will depend, in part, upon a change in the emphasis of student counseling. The push to get as many as possible into four-year college programs must be replaced by an effort to help each student to define what his or her "passion for life" is, and then to select academic and occupational courses which will lead the student in that direction.

At this stage, the set of standards breaks into two types: those courses which are required for any occupation, and those which provide "contextual learning" in a setting which matches the specific field of work being sought. The first category includes: Academic Standards, Communication Standards, Career Planning, Problem-solving and Critical Thinking. These Academic Standards are met by studies which can be taught in classroom settings, either in college or in off-campus venues.

Contextual Learning, on the other hand, implies that the learning should take place in a shop, store, kitchen, laboratory, etc as appropriate. Many of these specialties (such as nursing, auto repair, cosmetology, etc) require specially designed facilities.

This is an ambitious set of standards, but the time to achieve it is now. There is more funding available for Career Technical Education than there has been for thirty years. And employers in several fields of work are reporting great difficulty in finding employees with appropriate training, so the climate is right. Pay scales in many of these specialty fields are well above those for entry level jobs in the academic fields. And it doesn't hurt that California's Governor is the product of Occupational Training in his native Austria. (He specialized in Salesmanship!)

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER, LWVNOC

# Judicial Independence

## The Honorable Gary Taylor, Federal District Judge, Central California

Judge Taylor has a long history in Southern California, having attended high school in Santa Ana and obtained undergraduate and law degrees from UCLA. After three years as an Army attorney, he practiced trial law in Orange County for 20 years. He was appointed a Superior Court Judge in 1988, and was appointed to the Federal District Court in California by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

Judge Taylor prefaced his remarks by crediting the League of Women Voters for having a role in his education. He was frequently called upon during his early position as Superior Court Judge to be a public speaker, often in connection with League presentations preparatory to voting on Propositions. He said that, in contrast to many public audiences, the League members understood the issues. He used this experience to help hone his skills in interpreting legal matters in understandable form. He indicated that, today, he would **speak as a Federal Judge**, with views somewhat different from the voting public.

An important fact to keep in mind in treating this topic is that the USA has **two independent legal systems**: Federal Courts (District Courts, Supreme Court) and State courts. The question of judicial independence must be treated separately for the two.

Historically, though the Federal Government was intended to be a three-part system, the Court was originally seen as small and weak compared with the other two branches. Thomas Jefferson said that, at first, the Court was small and helpless, but then became the most dangerous because it could chip away at the other two branches. The Court is still, today, criticized as "writing law" rather than "interpreting law". Though this criticism may have some merit, the Legislature retains the right to make or repeal the laws of the country.

The independence of the Federal Courts is buttressed by the fact that judges are **appointed (by the President, with the consent of the Senate) for life**, and so should be immune to influence, hence independent. The judges can be freely criticized. Being human, they may be affected by such criticisms. They can also be impeached if the Congress chooses.

State Judges are appointed by the Governors of the states. The state legislators have no vote on the appointments. The primary means of reining in a judge who is seen to be "defective" lies in the fact that they must run for re-election by the public periodically. Of course, it is **difficult for the public to obtain meaningful information on the judge's performance**, but the threat is real.

There are some threats to the continued service of judges, which might be seen as limiting judicial independence. One such factor is the **modest pay scales** for most judicial appointments. Most judges are appointed from the ranks of practicing attorneys. In general, outstanding attorneys can earn far more than they might receive as judges. Judge Taylor feels that most judges accept the positions for the opportunities that they represent, and are not motivated by money. One compensation for the modest pay scales of Federal Judges is the fact that the appointments are for life, regardless of retirement, so the pay continues but this advantage is counterbalanced by the very small payments to dependents after the death of the judge.

Another, rather recent, change which causes some judges to feel that their freedom of action is seriously reduced is the tendency for **legislators to specify sentencing guidelines in criminal legislation**. Judge Taylor does not agree, since the legislators do have the right to specify penalties, and to modify them if they do not appear to be working well. Legislators also have the right to ask for judicial review of pending legislation. They may, also, enact laws which they know are loosely written, counting on the right of persons standing trial to appeal the decisions, ultimately resulting in the development of "case law" to trim the loose ends.

An election in Orange County between incumbent Robert Dornan and challenger Loretta Sanchez resulted in a number of side-issues which were unclear. Judge Taylor was asked to step in and straighten it out, but he **refused, saying that the House of Representatives has the responsibility**. In another

*(Continued on page 6)*

## EdSOURCE FORUM

# MONEY TALKS

**E**dSource is an independent, impartial nonprofit organization whose sole mission is to clarify complex education issues and promote thoughtful policy decisions about public school improvement. We do not lobby or advocate. Created in 1977 by the state presidents of the CA Parent Teacher Association, the **League of Women Voters**, and the American Association of University Women, EdSource has developed a reputation over 30 years as a credible, respected source of California K-12 information, studies, analysis, and data. As a new member of the League of Women Voters, I had no idea that the League was one of the organizations responsible for shaping this very well respected group.

The Forum, Money Talks was a discussion of school finance in California. We were fortunate to be addressed by John Mockler, former director of the California State Board of Education. He discussed the huge increase in the number of California students. These students speak many different languages and have various needs, yet our state funding is 34<sup>th</sup> compared to the rest of the country. Even with these and many other handicaps, contrary to the press reports our students improve and continue to improve. This is demonstrated in the State Tests, and the passing rate

of the California High School Exit Exam. There is still very much room for improvement in some part due to the way our schools are financed which is the problem the Forum was addressing.

The next speaker was Susanna Loeb, associate professor of education at Stanford University. Ms Loeb was chosen by four private foundations to help design a series of research projects on California's school finance. "Getting Down to Facts" was the name of the project. The project's conclusion was the finance system of California Public Schools does not work. "Producing a dramatic improvement will require innovation and an infrastructure to support continuous improvement."

This leads us to the last part of the program, a panel of various stake holders in California public education. The panel discussed and offered their various opinions of what is needed to improve the system to finance California Schools.

Public Education is the backbone of our Democracy. It is an area we must continue to follow. To learn more about this forum or learn more about EdSource, their web site is [www.edsouce.org](http://www.edsouce.org).

BY ANITA SMILEY, LWVNOC CHAIR, SOCIAL POLICY

*(Continued from page 5)*

local issue concerning alleged misdeeds relating to the county jail, Judge Taylor was named as a referee, with the ultimate threat of a takeover of the jail by the Federal Government. Panicked local officials asked him "You wouldn't really take over, would you?" His reply was "Not unless the law requires it."

Summarizing several current areas in which the Justice System is often expected to do something :

1. Congress tends to "federalize" more issues than they should, getting into lots of local issues. He feels this is not the best use of the Federal Courts.

2. The existence of **secret courts**. Congress has the right and the responsibility to straighten out this issue. Currently active.

3. The status of "Executive Orders" by the President. He feels that the Justice System should have jumped on this early.

4. **Transparency**. This is absolutely essential in government, should be watched carefully.

In parting, Judge Taylor said "Fear not! The system has a long history, and works pretty well"

In response to questions, the following statements were elicited: 1. The legitimacy of the Patriot Act? He feels judges have been slow to act on the questions raised by the Act. 2. Temporary Appointments to avoid Congressional input? He feels this is not a Big Issue. They are temporary. 3. Should Gonzales go? Two things may happen. Public pressure may force the replacement. If not, legal questions will be raised, in which case the legal system will decide the issue.

4. **Do you enjoy the job?** Yes. The best job in the world. Interesting issues, and his only boss is the Constitution.

BY CHUCK GREENING, MEMBER, LWVNOC

# Hello Summertime

The League of Women Voters of North Orange County presents a get-acquainted, something-different series of summertime activities for you!

## Tour of Registrar of Voters Facility

**Tuesday, July 10 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Meet in Fullerton at 10 AM & carpool to Santa Ana.

\* Optional restaurant lunch on return to Fullerton.

## Kellogg House and Centennial Heritage Museum

**Thursday, August 2 \$12.00 admission 11:00 AM-2:30 PM**

Meet in Fullerton at 11 AM & carpool to Santa Ana.

\*Bring a brown bag lunch.

## International Happy Hour at Arline's Cypress Home

**Thursday, August 30 5:00 PM-7:00 PM**

Bring a snack to share. Bring along a spouse or friend, too.

Wine, beer and soft drinks provided.

**Directions:** Take the 91 Freeway west.. Exit at Valley View & turn left (south). Go about 2 miles to Lincoln. Turn right (west). Go about 2 miles to Denni. Turn left on Denni (opposite the entrance to Forest Lawn). Then turn left at the first street, Rainier. Follow Rainier around the curve for 2 blocks to Everest Circle. The address is 4547 Everest Circle.

**\*To carpool,** meet in the parking lot at the NE corner of Chapman and State College in Fullerton. Park near the Office Depot store and we will arrange carpools. Maps will be provided. If this is not convenient, you can drive separately.

**If you have questions,** please call or e-mail Arline Burgmeier at (714) 828-8624 or aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net

## CALENDAR

**Monday, July 9, 10:00AM**  
**Immigration Study Group**

Placentia Library  
411 Chapman Ave., Placentia  
For information contact  
Linda Rogers  
ashlandrogers@yahoo.com

**Tuesday, July 10**  
**Tour Registrar of Voters Facility**  
See Hello Summertime

**Thursday, August 2**  
**Tour of Kellogg House and**  
**Centennial Heritage Museum**  
See Hello Summertime

Monday, August 13, 10:00AM  
**Immigration Study Group**  
Placentia Library  
411 Chapman Ave., Placentia  
For information contact  
Linda Rogers  
ashlandrogers@yahoo.com

**LWVNOC Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 28**  
FJUHSO Noon-2PM  
1051 W. Bastanchury, Fullerton

**Sunday, September 9**  
11:30AM-1:30PM  
**LWVNOC Annual Kickoff**  
**Censorship & the Threat to a**  
**Free Society**  
**Al Jerome, Speaker**  
CEO and President, KCET  
Marriott Hotel, CSUF  
2701 E Nutwood  
Fullerton

**Constitution Day  
September 17, 2007**

All schools that receive federal monies must "hold an educational program pertaining to the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of each year." The Citizen Education Study Oversight Committee, LWVNOC members, Deane Cassidy, Carol Bittle, Barbara Michel and Debra Granger from the Orange County Department of Education met in June to set goals for implementing Constitution Day in as many schools in North Orange County as possible.

The OCDE is offering a workshop for all K-12 teachers and administrators on Monday, September 10 from 3:30PM-5:30PM at OCDE in Costa Mesa. Please encourage teacher friends to attend.

The Oversight Committee members are compiling a survey for teachers and administrators about how schools are teaching the State Content Standards regarding Civics education.

BY DEANE CASSIDY, LWVNOC CITIZEN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Sunday, September 9  
11:30-2:00PM

LWVNOC Annual Kickoff

**Al Jerome**

CEO and President, KCET

**Censorship & the  
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