



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

September 2007

VOTER

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

Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Yorba Linda

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.

KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Al Jerome, President and CEO of KCET

Censorship & the Threat to a Free Society

First amendment rights, censorship, open meetings and the accessibility of public records are longstanding issues of concern to members of the League of Women Voters. At our LWVNOG Kickoff Luncheon on Sunday, September 9, 2007, Al Jerome, President and CEO of KCET will present Censorship and the Threat to a Free Society.

Al Jerome became president and CEO of KCET, public television for southern and central California on February 1, 1996, after nearly three decades of commercial television station management experience. Now in his second decade, Jerome continues his commitment to quality programming representing the diversity and vitality of the audience which the station serves.

In addition, Jerome is a champion of regional and local programming, especially in the area of news and information. Under Jerome, KCET has continued its award win-

ning, weeknight public affairs series *Life & Times*. Also, under Jerome, KCET has partnered with public television stations KQED/San Francisco, KVIE/Sacramento and KPBS/San Diego to produce the weekly statewide newsmagazine *California Connected*. Now in its sixth year, *California Connected* is a recipient of the 2007 Alfred I duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.

LWVNOG is fortunate to have such a prominent speaker on a subject so important to a vibrant democracy. Join us on Sunday, September 9th, 11:30AM at the Fullerton Marriott on the CSUF campus.

Choose either Southern Cobb Salad or Pasta Primavera with all the trimmings, Cost \$25. Call your reservation to 714-254-7440 or send your check made to LWVNOG at PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834. Reservations must be received by September 4th.

Sunday
September 9
11:30-2:00

Reservations must
be received by
September 4, 2007

**Marriott Hotel
CSUF
2701 Nutwood
Fullerton, 92831**

Luncheon of
Southern Cobb Salad
or Pasta Primavera

Cost \$25

Call your reservation
to 714-254-7440

or send your check to
LWVNOG PO Box 3073
Fullerton, CA 92834

Before

September 4 2007

Invite Friends & Family

From Our President

OUR WIDE RANGE OF CHOICES!!

When I first joined LWVNOC it was through an invitation to work on the brochure to inform voters, *How to Elect a School Board Member*. Since then I have been able to attend a myriad number of programs, and serve on the board in a number of capacities. I know some of you have joined the League because you support what it stands for but are busy with your profession or other activities. We value all our members, those who join to support the League and those who both support the League and are active participants. However, I do want you all to know that we have so many options in NOCLWV for short time activities as well as leadership roles. One of my goals as President is to let you know you are welcomed. Any time you can give to League events will be most appreciated and I think you also will really enjoy the effort. Take a look at the following list of ways to participate in LWVNOC and then use the Voter to get more information.

1. Attend the Kickoff Luncheon. Hear Al Jerome speak on censorship in the media.
2. Attend a Lunch With League and learn about building homes for the poor in September, and autism from a parent's view in October.
3. Learn to be an observer of a local government agency.
4. Interview government leaders representing LWV.
5. Attend the Immigration Study and help us achieve consensus.
6. Be a poll worker in 2008.
7. For Constitution Day, deliver items to a local school and observe a lesson.
8. Volunteer to work at the Judicial Independence Forum on March 1, 2008.
9. Be trained to serve on the speaker's bureau to inform the public about problems in the judicial system.
10. Work with the committee studying "What Orange County is Doing for the Poor."
11. Work at a candidates' night as a moderator, question sorter, greeter, or timer.
12. Be trained as a Pros and Cons Presenter for ballot initiatives.
13. Do some phone calls to candidates to remind them about getting information into SmartVoter.org.
14. Invite a friend to a League function.
15. Help with mailers.
16. Attend Read With League and share your insights or just listen.
17. Attend the International Happy Hour on August 30 for fun.
18. Volunteer to help with the League Birthday party in February.
19. Volunteer your computer skills when needed.
20. Volunteer any other skill or interest you have that I haven't listed.

I hope I have inspired you to come forward to share your abilities. You can e-mail me at maryfuhrman@pacbell.net or phone 714-523-1585. If you are unable to do so, we still want you to know you are supporting us through your membership.

Mary

MARY FUHRMAN, PRESIDENT LWVNOC

Membership News

GOOD-BYE SUMMERTIME

Our “Hello Summertime” activities have gone by fast. In June we reviewed the films of Fred Astaire at Bowers Museum. July brought an informative guided tour of the Office of the Orange County Registrar of Voters.

Then, on August 2, 2007, a small group of League members discovered one of the best-kept secrets in Orange County. The Centennial Heritage Museum is a Victorian gem, tucked away in southwest Santa Ana. The historic plaza features several buildings from the 1890’s, including a blacksmith’s shop, set among gardens and citrus groves. After a picnic lunch, we enjoyed a guided tour of the nicely restored Kellogg House. At the end of our stay a docent treated us to “teatime” treats at a beautifully set table in the unique oval dining room.

Finishing off the good ol’ Summertime schedule is an International Happy Hour on Thursday, August 30, 2007, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The place to be is at the home of Arline and Lyman Burgmeier, 4547 Everest Circle, Cypress. Bring along a friend or spouse and an international type snack to share. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Arline Burgmeier (714) 828-8624.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The LWVNOC membership renewal forms were mailed in early August. Our membership year runs from September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2008. If you did not receive your packet, or have mislaid it, please contact one of the membership directors listed below. As you fill out your renewal form, please consider including your spouse or another member of your household as a joining member. An additional household membership is discounted to only \$25.00, and the increase in membership numbers benefits us tremendously. For instance, the more members belonging to a local League, the more delegates it can send to conferences where policies are set. The more members the LWVC and LWVUS have, the stronger are their voices in advocacy and lobbying. Of course, additional financial contributions are always welcome and are a great help in meeting our goals.

We look forward to meeting you at League events and working with you during the busy 2008 election year.

GINNY HAUSSMANN AND ARLINE BURGMEIER, MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTORS

READ WITH LEAGUE

Join with other Leaguers for informal discussions of books related to topics of League interest and/or current affairs. It’s best if you have read the book before we meet, but join us even if you haven’t.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 7:00 PM

The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century

by Thomas L. Friedman

Hostess: Shirley Bloom 2609 Cypress Point Dr., Fullerton (714) 870-6593

September 17th is Constitution Day!

What is LWVNOC Doing?

As many of you know, in 2004 a federal law was established mandating every classroom in the country that receives any federal aid to have a lesson on Sept. 17 which teaches about the U.S. Constitution. The League believes that preparing young people for citizenship must be a central mission of our nation's schools. Deanne Cassidy, our Civic Education Director, encouraged us to apply for a grant from LWVUS to aid in developing curriculum and encouraging "Constitution Day" activities throughout North Orange County school districts. We have collaborated with the Orange County Department of Education by sending a letter to every teacher, through their districts, inviting them to a training at the OCDE and sample lessons for grades K-12. In addition, with Deanne's and Barbara Michel's leadership, we are preparing some programs and lessons on the Constitution for a sampling of area schools.

The Elementary program will involve an actor dressed as George Washington who will explain what went on at the Constitutional Convention and how this

has protected our way of life.

The Middle School program will concentrate on the Preamble and will have a puzzle made of pieces representing the license plates of the U. S. They are "vanity plates" with letters and numbers that when you arrange them phonetically, will read the Preamble to the Constitution.

At the High School Level we are preparing a Jeopardy game with questions concerning the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

To assist on this project call Deanne Cassidy at 714-526-2004 or Barbara Michel at 714-522-3506.



The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States written in license plates.

BY MIKE WILKINS

Promoting Judicial Independence

Orange County Leagues Work to Implement Our Grant

As announced in the Summer Voter, the League of Women Voters Education Fund with funding from the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute awarded a major grant to Orange County Leagues for a two year project: Promoting Judicial Independence. The four Leagues in Orange County are working together to increase citizen understanding of the importance of our nation's system of separation of powers and to highlight the vital need for protecting a vibrant and independent judiciary.

What are the critical issues facing our judiciary? Trend towards partisanship (affiliation with political parties who pay for advertising and endorse judicial candidates), organized efforts to overturn controversial decisions ("hot button" rulings which have become subject to legislative overturns), reduced funding for our court system by California's State Legislature, judicial elections whose results are compromised, and the future impact of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling (candidates for the judiciary should be able to speak on issues important to the public.)

All of these issues relate to judicial independence and accountability. Will our judiciary continue to be fair and independent? Or will our judiciary be compromised by who controls the purse strings and by other efforts to manipulate our Constitution's system of checks and balances?

Promoting Judicial Independence has three components **Know Your Judges**, a voter education project which collects and disseminates non-partisan information on judicial candidates, a **Community Speakers' Bureau** on Judicial Issues which will reach 2,000 Orange County citizens and a **Community Forum** entitled "Judicial Independence: Is Democracy in Danger?", a symposium addressing issues of judicial independence and accountability, the problems and solutions.

For the first component, **Know Your Judges**, Wanda Shaffer, NOC, and Joan Hake, COCA, are Co-Facilitators. They have met with several judges to begin the development for interviewing the judges who will be running in the elections. This interview data will be on www.smartvoter.org so that voters can learn more about these judges. The election for Superior Court Judges will be June 10, 2008 with one third of the judges being on the ballot for retention election. Our goal is to make this information on judicial candidates available on both www.SmartVoter.org and in the LWV California's election publication *Pros and Cons*.

Of all branches of government, the judiciary is the least understood! As a result, the second component is the creation of a **Community Speakers Bureau** on Judicial Issues. LWVNOC has nine Speakers Bureau volunteers who will be trained for presentations to community organizations. Speakers will work with a developed script, business cards, name tags, and a speakers' kit which includes all the handouts for each session. Shirley Bloom and Mary Fuhrman are working with Marcia Garten on developing the curriculum with the script and the training day. Jeanne Blum and Jerry Young will co-facilitate the LWVNOC group. If you know of civic clubs or organizations that would be interested in a 30 minute presentation on Judicial Issues, please call Jeanne Blum at 714-879-3847 or Jerry Young at 714-525-4037. These presentations can be given from November, 2007 to November 2008. Our goal is to reach 2,000 Orange County citizens by December 2008.

In order to create a community dialogue about issues pertinent to an independent judiciary we will host a **Community Forum** – "Judicial Independence: Is Democracy in Danger" as the third component of our project. This daylong public sym-

(Continued on page 7)

Want to be a Poll Worker?

Half Day Option Available to League Members

Many of us have often thought, "I could be a poll worker but it is such a long day!!" Now your chance to serve and make it a reasonable time of service is here! The Registrar of Voters has offered to the League of Women Voters ONLY the offer to share a poll duty with another, making it a half day effort. Both volunteers would have to take the training which is offered throughout the county at various times before the February election. He has also said we could arrange to have our stipends sent to the LWVNOC, which would help a lot in our budget. If you would like to work the elections next year, Feb. 5, June 3, and Nov. 4, please call Jerry Young at 714-525-4037. Also let her know which shift you would prefer.

The Justice System in Orange County Orange County Leadership Academy 2007

On six Wednesdays from March 14 through April 18, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. about 25 representatives of various community organizations of Orange County went to the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana (and the Lamoreaux Justice Center for Family Law) to learn about the courts and the Justice System in Orange County. Marcia Garten (COCA) and Shirley Bloom (NOC & ILO) represented the League of Women Voters. The program was chaired by Judge Frederick Aguirre and by Presiding Judge Nancy Wieben Stock.

Justice in action is "awesome." For someone forced to deal with the court system—from the criminal court and small claims court to the divorce and probate court to serving on a jury, the system can be intimidating and complex. But the courts are going out of their way to be responsive to people's needs. There are self-help programs with a continuum of services to meet the growing demand of a diverse population unable to afford legal representation. Services range from answering questions to referral to non profit organizations for full legal representation. Self-help information is available 24 hours a day on several web sites which include: www.occourts.org, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp, www.legal-aid.com/I-Can!. Information is available in Spanish and Vietnamese. Modules are designed to help the public properly complete and print out court forms which are then ready for filing. Information, re-

errals and complaint resolution services are provided by the Court Resource Bureau located in the lobby of the courthouse. The Self Help Center assists court users with operating the information kiosks and providing court forms. Computers are available for calculating child support payments

Anyone with questions about small claims court in Orange County can contact the Advisor Hotline at 800 963 7717 which is staffed by paralegals and law students and supervised by an attorney or they can attend an education clinic to get information about small claims rules and procedures. Free mediation service is available under the O.C. Dispute Resolution Program. Five non profit agencies provide the service.

Each week had presentations by judges, attorneys or court managers describing their departments—Civil Court, Small Claims court, Family Law Juvenile Court, Domestic Violence, Judge Erick Larsh; Criminal Law Panel; Collaborative Courts, Judge Wendy S. Lindley. We had presentations from Court Interpreters, Jury Service Manager and former Grand Jury members. Food and snacks were provided and we had a grand graduation ceremony. I learned a lot but felt frustrated that there was no time for discussion. If there are repeat programs and you have an opportunity to attend, I'd recommend it to interested League members.

BY SHIRLEY BLOOM, LWVNOC DIRECTOR

Lunch with League September 27

Habitat for Humanity, Key to Home Ownership

Habitat for Humanity is building a path to home ownership in an economy that doesn't always provide for low income housing. At our September Lunch with League event Robin Sinclair will present one way Orange County is working to solve the problem. Robin Sinclair is the Director of Volunteer Services and Community Events for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to end poverty housing worldwide by building simple decent houses for hard working, low income people. Robin's most recent event involved the celebration of two deserving Orange County families receiving keys to their very first home. She holds a bachelor degree in Business. She lives in Newport Beach, is married, has four sons, a daughter in law, and three dogs.

Join us on September 27th at 11:30AM at Sizzler on Harbor Blvd. in Fullerton and bring a friend!

Reservations by Sept. 25, to League phone 714-254-7440 or email: bfhf1951@aol.com

Promoting Judicial Independence

(Continued from page 5)

posium, "Judicial Independence: Is Democracy in Danger?" will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008, Titan Student Union, California State University, Fullerton. Issues relating to the selection of judges and judicial independence and accountability will be discussed by a distinguished panel of Superior and Appellate Court judges, law school faculty, attorneys, media representatives and others. Other sponsors for this stellar event include the Orange County Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, Orange County Women Lawyers Association, AAUW Fullerton Branch, Cal State Fullerton's Political Science Department, and Whittier Law School, Chapman University School of Law, and Western State University School of Law. Marilyn Buchi is the facilitator with a committee of ten working on the details.

For more information on the grant, go to the website www.lwvnoc.org, click on What's New or call Kay Bruce at 714-921-1308 or email her at kay-bruce@sbcglobal.net

CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 28

LWVNOC Board Meeting
Noon-2:00PM, FJUHSO
1051 W Bastanchury
Fullerton, 92833

Thursday, August 30

International Happy Hour
5:00-7:00PM
At the Burgmeier Home
Details on back page

Sunday, September 9

LWVNOC Kickoff Luncheon
11:30AM-2:00PM
Marriott at CSUF
2701 Nutwood, Fullerton, 92831
Details on front page

Monday, September 10

Immigration Study
10:00-11:30AM
Buena Park Library
7150 La Palma, Buena Park, 90620
714-826-4100

Tuesday, September 11

Read with League
7:00 PM at Shirley Bloom's
2609 Cypress Point Dr.
Fullerton (714) 870-6593

Tuesday, September 25

LWVNOC Board Meeting
Noon-2:00PM, FJUHSO
1051 W Bastanchury
Fullerton, 92833

Thursday, September 27

Lunch With League
11:30-1:00PM
Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd
Fullerton, Cost \$12
Reservations by Sept.25, please, to
League phone 714-254-7440 or
email: bfhf1951@aol.com
Details on this page

It's a League Party! Please come to an
International Happy Hour

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

Meet and greet your League amigos

Beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided

PLEASE bring an international-type hors d'oeuvre
or snack to share.

Bring a spouse, friend or prospective member.

ARLINE & LYMAN BURGMEIER'S CYPRESS HOME
4547 EVEREST CIRCLE RSVP (714) 828-8624

Directions Take the 91 Freeway west. Exit at Valley View and turn left (south). Go about 2 miles to Lincoln. Turn right (west). Go about 2 miles to Denni. (opposite the entrance to Forest Lawn). Turn left onto Denni. Turn left again at the first street, Rainier. Follow Rainier around the curve for 2 blocks to Everest Circle. The house is 4547 Everest Circle in Cypress.



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Voter Editor

Eleanor Fumanti

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