



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.

LWVNOC Kickoff Luncheon Sunday, September 14, 2008

Senator Joe Dunn

California Government: Can We Meet the Challenges?



Joe Dunn served for eight years as a California State Senator representing the people of the 34th Senate District. As Senator, Mr. Dunn worked on behalf of children's hospitals, emergency services, seniors and affordable housing. Mr. Dunn led California's investigation into the state energy crisis and uncovered how Enron and other energy pirates were gaming the market. He helped unearth the infamous Enron memo that described in detail how the state was plundered and which led to civil penal-

ties and criminal indictments of rogue energy traders. Mr. Dunn was dubbed the "Man Who Cracked Enron" by California Lawyer Magazine. Joe Dunn currently serves as CEO of the California Medical Association.

Join us on Sunday, September 14, 11:30 AM at Coyote Hills Golf Club, 1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton. Cost is \$25. Choose Sesame Ginger Chicken Salad, Trio Salad (fruit, tuna, pasta) or Vegetarian Salad (fruit, pasta).

Mail your check with salad choices to LWVNOC, P. O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834.

For information contact Joan Cohen,
714-525-0023 cohen.joan@att.net

Lunch With League Thursday, September 25, 2008

The Water Crisis: Are Our Taps Running Dry?

William "Bill" Mills recently retired from the Orange County Water District where he served as General Manager for nearly 15 years. OCWD is responsible for management of an extensive groundwater basin in northern Orange County, California that provides about 70% of the water needs of 2.5 million residents. The District is a world-renowned leader in the fields of groundwater management, wastewater reclamation and wastewater desalting. During his tenure, the District expended more than \$200 million on facilities that improve the management of the basin and provide new dependable water supplies. While at OCWD he initiated the planning and design of the

Groundwater Replenishment System that converts 70,000 mgd of domestic wastewater into the potable groundwater supply of the county. He is a professional engineer and geologist.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about current water issues from an internationally respected leader in the field. Join us on Thursday September 25, 2008 12:30-2:00 PM at the Sizzler Restaurant, 1401 N Harbor Blvd., Fullerton, 92835. The cost is \$12. Save money and buy a six ticket Lunch with League coupon book for only \$65.

For reservations call 714-254-7440 or bhf1951@aol.com

Choice of Steak, Chicken or Salad Bar

Kickoff Fundraiser with a BIG KICK!

BY LINDA RODGERS, LWVNOC DEVELOPMENT CHAIR,

Before last year's Kickoff, I was lamenting that the donations at fundraisers my husband attends had much more seductive and attractive items than we had – martini kits, poker tables, spa weekends – and we had earrings and note cards. Not that they aren't nice, mind you, but my need for another pair of earrings isn't nearly so strong as my desire for a martini kit! So we set out to improve the donations and raised over \$900 at last year's Kickoff thanks to fabulous gifts such as a handmade quilt, three months of chocolate desserts by a pastry chef, a round of golf, and many more exciting donations.

This year I am delighted to say the donations are even more exciting, extravagant, mouth-watering and seductive! So far we have:

A \$3,000 and a \$1,000 certificate for portraits from Bradford Studios! When is the last time your children or your parents got a beautiful professional portrait of you? How about getting the family together for a portrait session that will be passed down through generations?

Three Months of Chocolate Desserts by a Pastry Chef! As the lucky winner of this prize last year, I can't rave enough about how wonderful the desserts were. I doled my three desserts out on occasions when I was entertaining, and on every occa-

sion, the dessert stole the show. Espresso torte, Strawberry Chocolate torte and Four-Chocolate brownies! Yum!

A one-hour consultation with an attorney - \$300 value! I know EVERYONE has a little list of questions they'd like to ask an attorney – here's your chance to get all the answers you need.

Texas Bar-B-Que for four! This is a personally created and served dinner for four by Kay and Mal Bruce – if you have friends you'd like to impress, this dinner will do it.

A handmade table runner! Our extremely talented Bette Frasier has created a handmade table runner for your special occasions – sure to be a family heirloom.

There are too many wonderful donations to do justice to here – including a round of golf for four, baskets of goodies, certificates for dinners, theme parks – wow! Despite inflation and the state of the economy, tickets will be **THE SAME PRICE** as last year: \$5 per ticket; 5 tickets for \$20. Don't forget, there will be only 50 to 100 people at the Kickoff, so your odds are extremely good of walking off with a fabulous prize!

Here's hoping that I pick YOUR lucky ticket for the item of your dreams!

Report on National Convention by New Member, Carol Bittle

As a new member (having joined 18 months ago) and a first time delegate to LWVUS Convention in June, I found it to be fascinating and fun. Incredibly interesting, talented and amazing women (and a few men) made up the body of delegates from all over this country. The “grass roots” and “consensus” aspects of this organization are certainly a novel way to do business, especially for one who has experienced the “top down” approach in other organizations. I totally respect and appreciate the study approach in order to arrive at a position statement.

The Convention allowed me to attend caucus meetings on several subjects:

Healthcare reform – where I learned about current legislation, especially what we are trying to do here in California. I also had the opportunity to view the film [Sick Around the World](#)

Homeless Youth – which gave me a list of resources and information about what various Leagues are doing and have done.

Civic Education – again with information about what the schools are doing to educate our children and resources to access. I was impressed that some excellent materials are available, paid for by tax dollars, to all districts in California.

Redistricting – this was a controversial issue, since several states beside California are in the

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The LWV MISSION STATEMENT: The League of Women voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

I opened with our mission as this time of an election year, it is good for all of us to reflect and personally decide what we can do to inform the public and get people involved in government. News commentators keep remarking that this 2008 election is one of the most exciting in their memories. The national Presidential election should bring out more voters so those of us working at the polls will have an exciting day. But before November 4, we want NOC citizens aware of the Propositions on the ballot, the qualities of the candidates running in our local cities and school districts. The League is presenting candidates forums in most of our cities and we need members to be question sorters, timers, moderators, greeters. Our Pros and Cons Presenters, and Moderators, will have training on September 20 in Fullerton. However, each presentation should have an additional League member to pass out materials and assist the Presenter. Please call Jeanne Blum, 714-879-3847 to volunteer at one of these activities

We are having a great Kick-Off for the year with our annual luncheon, this year at the Coyote Hills Golf Club. Former Senator Joe Dunn, a great speaker, as those of you who attended the Judicial Independence Forum will attest to, will discuss California Government and its challenges. As we did last year, we will have a raffle of some great donations that will entice everyone to take a chance. Information on the luncheon and raffle is found in other articles in this issue. Please join us and make your reservation and lunch order by phoning the League number 714-254-7440.

We have a great year ahead of us including a new study after the first of the year on the National Popular Vote. We are conducting some campaigning and offering talks to groups on Proposition 11, the Redistricting Proposition, which was co-written by LWVC and Common Cause. Constitution Day has us involved in all the schools of the two Fullerton districts. We have great speakers lined up for the Lunch with League each month and some intriguing books for Read with League. I do hope you have sent in your membership renewal and will join us by participating as much as you can in these activities.

Mary Fuhrman

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The LWVNOC membership renewal forms were mailed in early August. Our membership year runs from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. 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 confer-

ences 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 out goals.

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

FRANN SHERMET AND ARLINE BURGMEIER
MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTORS
(714) 220-1338 (714) 828-8624

LWVNOC Gearing Up for Election 2008

Currently Scheduled Candidate Forums 2008

PLACENTIA
City Council Forum
October 2, 7:00 PM
Placentia City Hall
401 E. Chapman Ave.

FULLERTON
City Council Forum
October 6, 7:00 PM
Fullerton City Hall
303 W Commonwealth Ave.

BUENA PARK
City Council Forum
October 13, 7:00 PM
Buena Park City Hall
6650 Beach Blvd.

LA HABRA
Board of Education Forum
October 14, 7:00 PM
City School District Offices
500 N Walnut

LA HABRA
City Council Forum
October 16, 7:00 PM
La Habra City Hall
210 E. La Habra Blvd.

Election Season is keeping League members busier than ever this year. Candidate forums are being scheduled in our North Orange County cities for city council and school board candidates. League speakers are preparing to present the Pros and Cons of the ballot measures to many civic and social groups. Our SmartVoter website will be humming with election information for voters and SmartVoter street banners will be hung in several of our cities. And many League members will work the polls on election day.

Please consider volunteering as a timer, greeter or question sorter at candidate forums. We also need volunteers to be trained as **moderators** for those events and to be trained as **presenters** of Pros and Cons of the ballot measures. Contact Jeanne Blum to volunteer as a candidate worker: jeannepb@gmail.com 714-879-3847. Contact Shirley Bloom to volunteer for moderator or presenter training: shirleybloom@msn.com 714-870-6593.

TRAINING FOR PRESENTERS OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2008 ELECTION

PROS AND CONS OF THE BALLOT MEASURES

9:30 to 11:45

TRAINING MODERATORS—CANDIDATE FORUMS

12:30 to 2:00

WHEN: Saturday, September 20, 2008

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fullerton Police Station Mural Room

237 Commonwealth Avenue

Fullerton, 92832

Bring Sack lunch

Questions—Call Shirley Bloom 714 870 6593

LWVNOC Co-sponsors National Issues Forums Coordinated with Presidential Debates

Across the nation in all the presidential libraries, the National Issues Forum will be conducting town hall type discussions on 3 major issues concerning the Presidential election. Since LWVNOC has the Nixon Library within its area, they have asked us to co-sponsor and encourage the citizens of this area to attend. Each forum will be close in time to one of the Presidential Candidates debates. Enter the following dates on your calendars and join us for some stimulating discussion:

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7-9 PM. Too Many Children Left Behind—How Can We Close the Achievement Gap?

Thursday, October 16, 10-12 AM. Health Care—How Can We Pay For It?

Tuesday, October 28, 7-9 PM Energy Crisis

The Nixon Library is located at 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda.

Proposition 11: The Redistricting Initiative

The League of Women Voters of California urges you to vote for Prop 11 and also to get out the word to your friends and neighbors. Here's what you can tell them:

What will Proposition 11 accomplish?

Your vote for Proposition 11 on the November ballot will eliminate districts that are drawn to favor addresses of the incumbent or the challenger, party preferences, and favorite donors.

Your vote for Proposition 11 will finally give voters a voice. Politicians will be accountable when no longer guaranteed re-election.

Your vote for Proposition 11 will establish an open and transparent process of districting.

What's wrong with the present system?

Legislators draw their own district lines to guarantee their re-election—a major conflict of interest. The author of the last proposition to redraw districts stated, “You can't even see the district boundaries unless you get in an airplane!” There's a 99% re-election rate in California legislative races, despite low voter approval.

The present district lines are drawn solely by Howard Berman's brother, Michael. Both the Brennan Center and the LA Times have offered a quote

from a legislator who said he had to buy his district lines by paying \$20,000 to Michael Berman.

District lines are drawn through communities, thus effectively diffusing and separating votes of certain groups. Examples are the Watts area and the Latino area in the San Fernando Valley.

The legislators are not accountable to their voters; they don't have to earn our votes. When the Watts district had a major flood, the district residents had a very difficult time getting assistance from their legislator. The Watts area was cut THREE ways at both the senate and the assembly level. The residents seeking help were ping-ponged back and forth trying to contact the right person for help. One legislator was quoted, “I have only 400 from Watts, and I don't need their votes.”

The present districts lead to partisan gridlock keep lawmakers from addressing pressing issues.

Who is supporting Prop 11?

There is a broad-based bi-partisan support statewide. (Although both the Dems' and the Reps' state parties are opposed.) Included in the support system is AARP, CA Common Cause, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger, ACLU of S. CA., LA and CA Chambers of Commerce, CA Council of Churches, CA Democratic Council.

League to participate in Constitution Day at Chapman University

The U.S. Department of Education's has mandate that educational institutions accepting federal aid celebrate Constitution Day, September 17th, with educational programming to enhance students understanding of the role the U.S. Constitution plays in our country. The Constitutional Rights Foundation – Orange County is launching a new program. In collaboration with Chapman University, the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange County Superior Court and the Orange County and Federal Bar Associations, Constitution Day will be an interactive series of workshops for high school students to learn and discover how the Constitution is a living document.

The culmination of the workshops will be a Supreme Court hearing with sitting judicial officers augmented by students selected from the workshops to listen to arguments from accomplished attorneys regarding the theme amendment and to question them about their stance. The bench will then deliberate and reach a verdict based upon on the arguments. This year our topic is “Making it Count” Voting rights and Responsibilities. Dean John Eastman of Chapman Law School will be presenting the arguments at the Supreme Court hearing. The workshops will revolve around voting issues and will be presented by **The League of Women Voters**, The Orange County Registrar of Voters and a legal and judicial panel made up of prominent election law attorneys. The Date is September 17, 2008.

Help Wanted: Smart Voter Coordinator

League members throughout Orange County need to put their heads together to help us fill the position of Orange County Smart Voter Director. This will be the last year for our current director, Angela Lindstrom, since she is busy with a family and full time job.

Our SmartVoter website is our greatest tool for promoting informed and active participation in government. The site provides voters with comprehensive, nonpartisan information about the contests on their ballot in an easy-to-use format. In addition, the site provides a means for candidates to publish information about themselves and their candidacy directly to voters.

The Smart Voter Coordinator contacts candidates, gathers their information and posts it to the site. League members from Orange County Leagues volunteer to work with the coordinator on several aspects of the job. The coordinator maintains the website in coordination with the LWVCalifornia Smart Voter webmaster. Most of the work is done at home by someone with computer literacy and an internet connection.

Can you suggest someone who would work on this important contribution to our democracy? Think about whom you might suggest as a potential candidate for the position.

- ◆ A recently retired person who is looking for a really meaningful volunteer activity.
- ◆ A stay at home mom who wants to keep her skills and resume up to date at the same time she works on this important job.
- ◆ A League member who would be willing to give up a current League position to take on SmartVoter directorship.

If you have suggestions for a possible candidate, please contact Mary Fuhrman, LWVNOC President, 714-523-1585, maryfuhrman@pacbell.net



Marcia Garten and Marilyn O'Brien admire new Smart-Voter banners to be displayed throughout Orange County.

CONSTITUTION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17: LWVNOC in our Schools

This September 17 marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. In this landmark election year, the League of Women Voters is working nationwide to highlight the significance of our democratic process and reaching out to voters in an effort to encourage a better common understanding of the Constitution and the rights it ensures us.

LWVNOC has been awarded another grant from LWVUS to promote Constitution Day in North Orange County schools. In the two Fullerton districts we are doing similar activities to those we did last year in Buena Park and Placentia-Yorba Linda. Every 8th grade teacher will receive a lesson plan and materials for an activity to promote learning the Preamble to the Constitution. All of the FJUHSD civics teachers will receive a Jeopardy game lesson with accompanying DVDs to cover concepts and facts about the Constitution. Our

George Washington actor, Gary Beard, will present his informative programs at Beechwood School. League members will attend some of the lessons to observe and take pictures. LWVUS is very excited about this project and REALLY wants pictures to put on their national web site.

Many thanks to the volunteers who spent time cutting out the vanity license plates for the Preamble puzzle for eighth graders. Those who offered their time include: Arline Burgmeier, Ginny Haussman, Deane Cassidy, Pat Irot and the Placentia Round Table Women's Club, Lee Sjostrom, Loretta Benson, Marilyn Buchi, Edith Bockian, Patti Chikahisa, Bette Frazier, Barbara Michel, Gloria Schlaepfer, and Shannon Peterson and her clients at Homes. Ellen Ballard, Fullerton School District Board Member and League member, is helping to assemble all the lesson materials to present to the Fullerton districts.

Read with League:

Our League book discussion group starts another season on Thursday, September 11 from 1:30-3:00 PM at Joan Cohen's home, 1531 West Oak in Fullerton. We will discuss "Rivertown: Two Years on the Yantze" by Peter Hessler. Peter Hessler was the first American resident in the village of Fuling in the heart of China's Sichuan province. He taught English and American Literature in a small college, but it was his students who taught him the most about China culture and living.

Come join a lively discussion group as we share impressions and opinions about Peter Hessler's experience in China. Come even if you have not read the book. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 1:30-3:00 PM at various homes. Books for the coming year are:

October 9, "Memo to President Elect"

Author: Madeline Albright, Host Arline Burgmeier

November 13, "Why Women Should Rule the World"

Author: Dee Dee Myers, Host Anita Larsen

December 11, "Hope's Boy"

Author: Bridges, Host Marguerite Lyon

January 8, "The Missing Class"

Author: Newman Host Kay Bruce

February 12, "The Last Great Revolution"

Author: Wright, Host Dean Cassidy

March 12, "The Second Civil War"

Author: Brownstein, Host Lee Sjostrom

April 9, "Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans & Vagabonds"

Author: Rodriquez, Host Shirley Bloom

May 14, "Origins: A Memoir"

Author: Maloof, Host Frann Shermet

June 11, "Post American World"

Author: Zakaria, Host Gabriella Koliass

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process of pursuing changes as to how districts are determined. We were concerned about the wording of a national position that might limit work on our initiative, which will be Proposition 11 on the November ballot. When the debate was finished, the current League position was upheld.

Personally, I really enjoyed the Roll Call of (State) Presidents, who reported programs to register new voters, to have same day registration and voting, and hundreds of other activities. Equally as interesting, was the last day's session in which individuals gave guidance to the National Board, including such items as, provide a young leader's award, heighten awareness of our position on immigration, consider means to improve diversity of this group and keep website information current.

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 14 LWVNOG Kickoff Luncheon

11:30 AM

Coyote Hills Golf Club

1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton

Details on front page

Wednesday, September 17 Constitution Day Volunteer to Help Observe High School Civics Class Take Photos

Contact Mary Fuhrman

714-523-1585

maryfuhrman@pacbell.net

Thursday, September 11 Read with League

1:30-3:00 PM at Joan Cohen's

1531 West Oak, Fullerton

714-525-0023

Saturday, September 20 Pros and Cons Training Moderator Training

Fullerton Police Mural Room

237 Commonwealth Ave

Info: Shirley Bloom 714-870-6593

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Thursday, September 25 Lunch With League

12:30-2:00PM

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton, Cost \$12

Reservations 714-254-7440 or

bhf1951@aol.com

Details on front page

Tuesday, September 30 National Issues Forum *Too Many Children Left Behind* Volunteer to Help with Voter Registration and distribution of materials

7-9 PM Nixon Library

Info: Mary Fuhrman 714-523-1585

maryfuhrman@pacbell.net

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League of Women Voters
North Orange County
P.O. Box 3073

LWV: JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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

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Time Change

Lunch With League
Begins at 12:30 this year
in the hope that the
restaurant will be quieter
during the program

LWVNOC Kickoff Luncheon ***Sunday September 14***

11:30AM-2:00PM

Coyote Hills Golf Club

Guest Speaker:

Senator Joe Dunn

"California Government:
Can We Meet the Challenges?"

Details on page one