



VOTER

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

Sheriff Hutchens Addresses League Audience

In June 2008, after a period of turmoil, Orange County found itself without a Sheriff. After a major search, the Board of Supervisors selected, from a large field of applicants, our first female Sheriff, Sandra Hutchens. She came to us after 30 years of distinguished service with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. Born and schooled in southern California, she was first hired as a secretary in the Department, rose through a widely varied series of positions in enforcement, community relations, legislative liaison and counter terrorism.

During these years of service Sheriff Hutchens was provided with specialized training in Public Administration, Preparedness Leadership, Counter Terrorism and the FBI Academy. This training, plus her widely varied assignments gave her an unusually broad range of capabilities.

Sheriff Hutchens is in charge of the second largest Sheriff's Department in California and 5th or 6th in the nation, with 4,000 sworn officers. It provides policing for the unincorporated portions of the County, plus 12 cities which contract with the Department. They also provide law enforcement service for the Orange County Transit District, Superior Court and Harbor Patrol. The Harbor Patrol also serves a Homeland Security function in which they work closely with the Coast Guard. This has become increasingly important due to increased smuggling of drugs and illegal immigrants.

The other functions of the Department include: Coroner, Crime Lab, Dive Team, Fugitives, Helicopter Patrol, and of course the Or-

ange County jail system. An exhaustive Grand Jury Report of the jail system which included 115 recommendations had just come out before her appointment by the Board of Supervisors. She read this report before she was hired and jokingly said she was still interested in being selected Sheriff! Since becoming Sheriff she noted that she has made substantial changes in the jail system.

Orange County jail houses 6,500 inmates, of whom 80% are in on felony charges, 400 of whom are in for murder. For a jail of its size, Orange County has the lowest suicide rate and the lowest assault rate. Under the 287-G Immigration Law, which has been in effect for 2 1/2 years, the Department can ascertain whether persons are illegal, and after having served their sentences, they are returned to their country of origin through Immigration and Customs. In this group, only 6% come back into the system.

The Sheriff's Department has a Special Victims Unit that deals with sex offenders, domestic violence and child abuse. In 2008 there were 3600 suspected cases. In bank robbery investigations the department is in partnership with the FBI. There were 146 of these in 2008.

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A THANK YOU FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

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Kay Bruce & Wanda Shaffer
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Joan Cohen, Program
Bette Frazier, Lunch with League
Mary Fuhrman, Action and Advocacy
Sue Fisher, Natural Resources
Pearl Mann, Government
Marguerite Lyon -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, urban sprawl and our natural resources.

Become a League Member

Go online to lwvnoc.org
and click "Join LWV"
or call 714-254-7440.

The Thanksgiving holiday is fast approaching and as always, we will gather at our tables and be thankful for our many blessings. We are grateful for the LWVNOC Board members. It is rewarding to work with such caring, intelligent, and active women.

As co-presidents, we would like to say a special thank you to our members who generously contributed to LWVNOC by adding a donation to their checks when they renewed their membership for 2009-2010. These donations total over \$1,000 so far. When members pay their annual dues, only about 10% of the dollars stay with NOC. This helps pay for operating expenses such as postage, photocopying, stationery supplies, a dedicated phone line, website fees, representation at conventions, and Voter Service activities. The other 90% of the dues goes to the national, state, and county Leagues to fund the overall political and educational agenda of the League of Women Voters. Contributions from members at renewal time are an important source of extra funding that enables NOC to offer an outstanding program for members and fulfill its mission of informing voters and influencing public policy. Another important source of extra funding is from members who serve as election poll workers and donate their half-day or full-day earnings to NOC. Many others contribute generously in kind by bringing potluck food to gatherings, providing refreshments for in-home meetings, donating items to the Kickoff drawings, and giving countless unpaid hours to League affairs.

Thank you all. We so appreciate you.

Kay Bruce

Wanda Shaffer



A History of Change

A Future of Hope

Local and State Leagues

Engaging the Community in the League's

90th Anniversary Celebrations

During 2010, Leagues throughout the country will be celebrating our 90th birthday and commemorating passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the

creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.

LWVNOC will celebrate this anniversary throughout 2010 as we work on the themes: a history of change, a future of hope.

MEMBER STORIES

Meet Bette Frazier

Bette Frazier became acquainted with the League as a high school teacher who used League materials in her civics classes. In the early 60s, when Claire Brown, the consummate Leaguer moved to La Habra from Berkley, and realized there was no League in town, she set out to establish one. Bette was her first ally. Formative meetings were successful. That was the beginning of Bette's lifelong involvement. Meetings were held twice a month in members' homes making this a fun and close-knit group. One of their first challenges was to support the ballot measure to unify the La Habra City School District & Fullerton Union High School District. Although the unification measure failed, League members had memorable experi-

ences, learned valuable skills in approaching other issues and got lots of visibility in the community. Success occurred regarding providing low income housing and pre-school child development centers in La Habra. Bette served as president of LWVLH more than once. However, when membership slipped to only 50 members, the League accepted an invitation in 1984 from Edith Bockian, president of LWV Fullerton, to combine the two Leagues as LWVNOC. Bette later served with Lois Smith and Diane Taylor as tri-presidents. Bette has always appreciated the goals and activism of the League, and feels that the League has helped her to become a voice making a difference.

BY CAROL BITTLE, LWVNOC DIRECTOR

Stand Up to the Lies

LWVUS Airs Health Care Ads in Key States

Be a League Activist

Members of the League of Women Voters have two goals: education and advocacy. Many of us have worked in voter education by conducting candidate forums, presenting talks on the Pros and Cons of ballot initiatives, and by presenting non partisan informational forums. We educate ourselves by participating in League consensus studies, by hearing Lunch with League speakers and by reading informative books for Read with League.

However, I am now urging you to become active in our other mission: **ADVOCACY**. It's an extremely easy, simple process. Sign up for email action alerts from both LWVUS and LWVC which will arrive periodically: on average, less than one a month. With the click of a couple of buttons, you will send an email to your Legislators expressing your support or opposition to a current bill.

I would like to see LWVNOG have more impact in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

**To signup for Action Alerts,
Go to LWVC.org**

On the left side click Act Now
Click on blue Sign Up Now

Go to LWV.org

On top bar click on Take Action

Click Grassroots Lobby Corps
BY MARY FUHRMAN
LWVNOG ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

The League of Women Voters aired a 30-second television ad condemning the intentional lies and desperate tactics of health care reform opponents. "Stand Up to the Lies" aired in October on select stations in Arkansas, Maine and North Dakota.

The ad urges Americans to stand up to the distortions by taking direct action in support of health care reform. "Health care reform is a critically important issue for Americans – an issue that requires action from all of us," said national League president Mary G. Wilson. "After watching opponents of health care reform repeatedly attempt to scare people with lies and disorderly conduct, the League decided that we must speak up."

"This is an unusual step for us. But as a non-partisan membership organization that believes in reasoned and civil debate we felt compelled to take a stand against the lies and the distortions," Wilson stated. "We know our modest buy is a drop in the bucket compared to the vast resources being spent by special interests, but we also know that our message is shared by countless, everyday Americans."

"Health care is too important to let the nay-sayers and the special interests stand in the way of real reform. We have an obligation to get the facts straight," Wilson said.

"We hope that Americans who see this ad online and on TV will take action and tell their Senators to stand up to the lies," said Wilson.

"We have had an overwhelming response from League members and supporters on this issue," concluded Wilson. "We need everyone's help in the fight for reform. Sharing this message is one way to take action."

Call your Senators at 202-224-3121. Tell them to stand up to the lies—and that the time for reform is now. Then call 202-224-3121 and make your voice heard. For more on this issue, or to contact your Senators by email, go to www.lwv.org/healthcareaction.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETINGS

September 29

After the many citizen complaints about the Planning and Development Dept., a subcommittee has been formed to implement the Performance Audit's recommendations. Serving on the committee are Supervisors Campbell and Bates and Jess Carvajal. Monthly status reports will be submitted to the Board.

The Board approved a letter of intent to the Irvine Company and The Nature Conservancy identifying County's intentions to transfer Irvine Co. lands to the County; staff will return to the Board with transaction documents and agreements at a later date. Supervisor Campbell and four members of the public were concerned about expense, the approach for perpetuity, public safety issues, and the restriction of public access. Other public speakers asked for a time extension to discuss these topics more extensively. Dan Miller of the Irvine Co. said all concerns will be addressed and more details will be given later if the Board of Supervisors accepts the letter of intent. Donald Bren has committed 50 million to the community. The money goes to the county and the Nature Conservancy. This land is 20,000 acres. The Board gave a unanimous vote.

October 6

The National Institute of Justice awarded the OC Forensic Lab \$1.5 million. This is the largest amount awarded in the history of the NIJ DNA Efficiency Grant Program. The District Attorney and the Sheriff Dept co-applied. They will receive new equipment, robotics, and gain new personnel. \$475,000 was awarded to clear the DNA backlog, which is almost down to zero.

October 20

Sheriff Hutchens and Asst. Sheriff James spoke of their budget cuts and the status of the jails. Each division has been asked to make a 20% cut and the command staff has been reduced 40%. The work release program has been expanded and policies are being revised to match the federal guidelines so that hopefully in 2010 and 2011 the county can gain \$6 million from "beds from feds".

This entails working with ICE (federal immigration) to house their jail population. (The OC jail budget is expected to be down \$71 million for next year.) The jails have made dramatic increases in separations of inmates. The Dept. of Justice spent a week in April visiting the jails and will make their report within a year. Meanwhile many of the items of concern have been addressed such as a new TASER policy, an eye-glass/optometry policy, etc. The discipline policy has been refined and OIR (Office of Independent Review) has been very involved. Prisoner arraignments will be achieved without transporting them to the courts in a few months. Non-sworn officers are being trained; schedules are now a straight platoon schedule to decrease overtime; and a grant with the OC Probation Dept. was received from the National Institute of Justice (one of four in the nation). Cost saving measures with the 12 OC contract cities are also being discussed. Sheriff Hutchens spoke of much concern for her jails and for the county in the upcoming year.

BY WANDA SHAFFER

LWV OBSERVER, OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

O.C. Human Relations Conference

Hate Crime: A Community Response

President Wanda Shaffer and Mary Fuhrman recently attended the second annual conference on Hate Crime in Orange County. In the opening session, David Bishop, Director of UCI Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center emphasized the theme that was expressed in other sessions: the underreporting of hate crimes. Last year in a county of over 3 million residents, only 79 hate crimes were reported. David told about how he was often followed and threatened on the roads, and freeways. At night, on campus he was threatened with verbal threats to his life, and yet he did not report any of these incidents. Only when he opened his front door in Orange and found a pile of bullets at his doorstep, did he finally call the police to report a hate crime.

The session on school bullying showed that many school principals are reluctant to identify hate crime on their campuses.

Lt. Joseph Leroy of the Long Beach PD went over the basic concepts that lead to hate

crime. Starting with our personal **Stereotypes**, then adding our **Prejudices**, we begin to **Discriminate** against certain groups. This then can lead to **Oppression** of the targeted group. These actions create community unrest, escalate retaliation, traumatize others, lead to brutality and injuries, and make others in the group feel victimized.

Lt. Leroy listed several ways to fight this problem. Examine our own biases and stereotypes. Establish behavioral guidelines. Hold to these standards. Let victims express how they feel. Integrate multi-cultural curriculums. Speak up when you see, hear, and feel an injustice.

The closing session featured Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of UCI School of Law. He covered the First Amendment protection of hate speech, and described when such speech becomes a crime. Threats are not protected by the First Amendment.

By Mary Fuhrman, LWVNOC Director

Sheriff Hutchens

(Continued from page 1)

In the area of narcotics, the emphasis is on major dealers through a Regional Suppression Program. There have been 103 arrests, and the money and property confiscated from narcotics dealers pays for the program. Arresting individuals with small amounts of narcotics is not their highest priority.

The Orange County Crime Lab is one of the best in the nation. There is excellent turnaround in evidence evaluation. There is essentially no backlog. DNA evidence is now based on much better science, and in addition to bodily fluids, other "markers" are valid.

The new Sheriff's first initiative upon her assignment was to restore public trust. The Department has cut \$28 million dollars out of the \$400 million dollar budget, excluding contract services. This was mainly from command

staff positions since her priority is keeping intact delivery of services for public safety. They still have a \$70 million dollar short fall, due to a drop in sales tax (they receive 1/2 cent) since consumer purchasing is down. The Sheriff's Department is greatly enhanced with 200 Reserves who serve for \$1.00 per year, plus 470 volunteers who serve gratis.

While Orange County has suffered no successful terrorist attacks, Sheriff Hutchens' major concern is that we remain focused on Homeland Security. This has been particularly brought home since her travels to Russia, Israel and Pakistan. Included in Homeland Security is responding to natural disasters.

Sheriff Hutchens spoke to a capacity audience of League members and guests from whom she commanded rapt attention.

BY CHUCK GREENING AND
MOLLY McCLANAHAN



Donate Your Old Car or Boat Today!

You can donate your car, truck, trailer, recreational vehicle, boat, or even real estate to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund!

Qualify for a tax deduction. Avoid confusing DMV paperwork or smog check hassles. Avoid all the headaches of trying to sell during a tough economy.



Call **800-320-0476** to speak to a live customer service representative, seven days a week, or visit our home page and donate online: **WWW.LWVC.ORG**.

Help Wanted

The League needs a volunteer member to manage the Smart Voter website at election times. All that is needed is a computer and a few hours of time to learn how to maneuver the website. We will probably have another small, local election January 12, 2010, so the instruction should take place in November or December, at your convenience. Much assistance is given from the ILO Smart Voter Webmaster and from the LWV state coordinator. Please contact Wanda Shaffer at wshaf6676@aol.com if you can take over this essential component of Voter Service.

Are you the League member who can give an hour or two each month as a publicity agent for NOC? You would contact our local newspapers via your computer. Just one hour of friendly instruction will give you all the email addresses and messages necessary to let our 8 cities know about our activities and upcoming events. If you can help your League of Women Voters in this capacity, please contact Wanda Shaffer at wshaf6676@aol.com

CALENDAR

Read with League
Thursday, November 5
1:00-3:00PM

*The Global Achievement Gap:
Why Even Our Best Schools
Don't Teach the Survival
Skills Our Children Need—
and What We Can Do About
It by Tony Wagner*

Hosted by Shirley Bloom,
Call 714 870-6593 or
shirleybloom@msn.com

LWVNOC Board of Directors
Thursday, November 19
Noon-2:00PM
FJUHSO
1051 W. Bastanchury
Fullerton, 92635

*Note: Meetings of the Board
of Directors are open to the
membership. Members are
encouraged to attend.*

Announcements
Next Lunch with League
is on January 28.
Next issue of the Voter
will be published
in late December.

Membership Renewals are Due

If you haven't sent in your membership renewal for 2009-2010 yet, please send it today! A membership renewal costs \$60 for a single member and \$30 for an additional family member (\$90 total). Please make checks out to LWVNOC and mail to LWVNOC, P.O. Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834. Thank you.

Diane Dantas, Frann Shermet, Membership Co-Directors



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Current and past issues of
the Voter are available on
line and in color at:

www.lwvnoc.org

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