



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

VOTER

February 2007

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: February 22nd Our Health Care Dilemma

The Reality of Health Care Delivery to the Public

Let's Celebrate
50th Birthday
LWVNOC

Sunday
February 11, 2007
11:30AM

\$25 per person

Choose

Eggplant Parmagiana
Chicken Picatta

Deadline, Feb. 4

Send to Frann Shermet
9525 Normandy Way
Cypress, 90630
714-220-1338

Portofino Restaurant
651 West Whittier Blvd.

La Habra 90631
(562) 690-1765

The restaurant is on
Whittier Blvd., La Habra
between
Idaho and Euclid.

Lunch with League this month gives us the opportunity to understand the dilemma of health care delivery from a physicians point of view. Out speaker, Wendy M. Buchi MD, grew up in Fullerton, California, and attended Sonora High School. From there, she went to Pomona College and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry and Biology. Dr. Buchi graduated with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine, and received her postgraduate training at UCLA Center for Health Sciences Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She relocated to San Diego in 1993 and has been

a part of IGO Medical Group since that time. General Obstetrics and Gynecology is the primary focus of Dr. Buchi's practice with an emphasis on pregnancy after age 35, adolescent gynecology, breast health care, and gynecological surgery. Dr. Buchi believes in the importance of patient education and is a frequent speaker to women's groups in the community.

In addition to her practice, Dr. Buchi is an Assistant Clinical Professor (Voluntary) at UCSD School of Medicine, an Expert Reviewer for the Medical Board of California, and serves on the United State's Figure Skating Association's Sports Medicine Committee.

IMMIGRATION REFORM: Hard Choices Facing America Should Local Police Enforce Federal Law?

As a prelude to our participation in the LWVUS study of Immigration, League members are planning to attend the second of three debates on immigration reform sponsored by The Anti-Defamation League and Chapman University School of Law. Orange County Sheriff Michael Corona will debate Garden Grove Police Chief Joseph Polisar on: *Enforcement: Should Local Police Enforce Federal Law?* at Chapman University Law School on **Tuesday, February 13 at 7PM**. This is the first time these law enforcement officials have debated the issue.

Call Wanda Shaffer, 714-525-6676 for more information.

Program Planning Issue_Pages 3-7

From our President

In February the League of California (LWVC) will be starting the process of Program Planning which will culminate at the State Convention in May at Bakersfield. This process is what makes League different from many other political organizations. We are a "grass roots" organization where decisions on what we study and act upon come up from the members to the respective Boards not the other way around. So in this issue of the Voter you will find what you need to make an informed decision on Program at the State level.

Every year there is confusion, especially among newer members, on what the term 'program' means with regard to League. In reading the Voter of LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale they summarize it well and I will pass it along. "Program in the LWV is not a series of meetings with entertaining speakers. League Program is the term we use for those governmental issues chosen by our members for concerted study and action. League members study each issue and come to agreement (consensus) before we adopt a position on which to base action. League program is, therefore, the positions we have adopted through the years on which we can take action, as well as issues for study that will lead to a position and action. When an issue becomes part of League program we are saying that a problem exists. It is through League program that we can work in the public interest."

We cannot take action, make a state-

ment, issue a letter to the editor, without a position that is contained in League program. We can use positions from LWVUS, LWVC and the Orange County League (ILO) but is there a local issue that is not covered by any of these levels of League?

At this time, you, the members are being asked to look at all the program positions of the State League and decide their fate. Should those positions be kept or dropped? Should they be modified because of changed circumstances? Are there governmental problems that are not covered by any of our positions?

On the local level we would like you to think about whether there is a problem within our eight municipalities, that should be studied? Or should we be doing more action on one of our existing positions? According to our bylaws, Section 3. Article (a) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendation sent in by voting members resident within the jurisdictions of the local governments concerned two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.

Please read the summaries of the State contained in this Voter and fill out the enclosed Program Planning Response Form and send it in to the LWVNOC post office box before February 10 or better yet bring it to our 50th Birthday Celebration at Portofino's Restaurant on February 10th.

Yours In League,

Eileen

SUMMARY OF LWVC POSITIONS

League program consists of those government issues chosen by members for concerted effort and action. The process of planning the program for the League begins with the review of our existing positions. After member discussion and review, each local League chooses those positions that it believes should be retained or deleted as well as those that the League should emphasize. The emphasis could be on advocacy or on education of League members and/or the community; or it could be a new study, an update of an existing position or a restudy of a long-held League position.

The following summary of state League positions will aid local League members in their decisions on the 2007-2009 LWVC program. Some positions are used frequently, while others await a particular need. Only the positions in brief are given here; see the *LWVC Action Policies and Positions, Updated 2006* for the full wording of the positions. For a description of recent application in action and advocacy go to www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly

GOVERNMENT

CAMPAIGN FINANCING adopted in 1973, updated in 1976

Position in brief: Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions that will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

CONSTITUTION adopted in 1957, updated in 1965-67

Position in brief: Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified state constitution; provisions that enable the legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state.

ELECTION SYSTEMS adopted 2001, amended by concurrence 2003

Position in brief: Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS adopted in 1984, updated in 1999

Position in brief: Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS adopted in 1981

Position in brief: Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES adopted in 1998

Position in brief: Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

REDISTRICTING adopted in 1988

Position in brief: Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Supports a bipartisan commission as the preferred redistricting body.

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES adopted in 1969, updated in 1975; new positions in 1976, 1977, 1981, and 1995

Position in brief: Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and that encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue, with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly.

VOTING RIGHTS adopted in 1972, reviewed in 1986

Position in brief: Support measures that will protect every citizen's right to vote and that will ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate.

NATURAL RESOURCES**AGRICULTURE** adopted in 1983

Position in brief: Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource that must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs that include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy that affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives and coupled with penalties for noncompliance.

AIR QUALITY adopted in 1971, updated in 1973

Position in brief: Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards.

ENERGY adopted in 1978, updated in 1980 and 2006

Position in brief: The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS adopted in 1986 and 1987

Position in brief: Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bioaccumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures.

LAND USE adopted in 1975

Position in brief: Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation.

SOLID WASTE adopted in 1973

Position in brief: Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials.

TRANSPORTATION adopted in 1981, revised in 1985; new position in 1991

Position in brief: Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; services all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

WATER adopted in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, and 1979

Position in brief: Support measures that promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.

SOCIAL POLICY**CHILD CARE** adopted in 1989

Position in brief: Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM adopted in 2003

Position in brief: Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.

EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12 adopted in 1973, updated 1985, 2005

Position in brief: Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that

meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

HOUSING adopted in 1970, updated in 1973 and 1993

Position in brief: Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY adopted in 1997 and 1999

Position in brief: Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, that serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and that rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual.

LEGAL AID adopted in 1971, revised in 1983

Position in brief: Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE adopted in 1998

Position in brief: Support for an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

Program Planning for LWVNOC Local Issues

Each year members of LWVNOC also have the opportunity to propose local government issues for study or emphasis in our North Orange County cities. Please submit your suggestions to Program Chair, Eleanor Fumanti, mefumanti@comline.com Suggestions are approved first by the board and then submitted for final approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May.

PROGRAM PLANNING RESPONSE FORM

PLANNING THE 2007-2009 PROGRAM FOR THE LWVC

PART I: RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXISTING LWVC POSITIONS

Circle the positions you wish to retain; draw a line through those you wish to drop. IF UPDATING ONE OF THESE IS ONE OF YOUR PRIORITIES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO IDENTIFY IT AS A CHOICE IN PART II, BELOW.

Government

Campaign Financing
 Constitution
 Election Systems
 Initiative and Referendum Process
 Intergovernmental Relationships
 Public Libraries
 Redistricting
 State and Local Finances
 Voting Rights

Natural Resources

Agriculture
 Air Quality
 Energy
 Hazardous Materials
 Land Use
 Solid Waste
 Transportation
 Water

Social Policy

Child Care
 Community College System
 Education: Pre-K through 12
 Housing
 Juvenile Justice/Dependency
 Legal Aid
 Mental Health Care

PART II: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2007-2009 PROGRAM EMPHASIS

A. STATE STUDY

_____ No state study
 _____ New study on (topic) _____
 _____ Update position on _____
 _____ Adopt by concurrence position on _____
 Comment on need for a state study _____

B. ISSUES FOR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

List the top three choices, as indicated. Be specific in your recommendations; that is, give both the issue you want the state League to focus on and what you want us to do. Should the focus be on community education? Concerted action in the legislature or state agencies? Other? Continue on another sheet if you need more room. Who in your League would be willing to work on a statewide committee on the issue?

First Choice: _____

Who will work on this issue? _____

Second Choice _____

Who will work on this issue? _____

Third Choice: _____

Who will work on this issue? _____

Signature _____ Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Return your completed form to: LWVNOC, PO Box 3073, Fullerton, CA 92834

Membership News

Fifty years have passed since the founding of the League of Women Voters of North Orange County. This landmark occasion will be celebrated with a birthday luncheon on Sunday, February 11, at Portofino restaurant. Invitations were mailed a few weeks ago. Please respond with your RSVP and check as soon as possible.

The focus for the day will be on the past, and the luncheon will honor long-time members. The planning committee is asking veteran members if they have any memorabilia from the early days, such as photos, newspaper clippings, etc. to share at the luncheon. Please let me know what you have.

The birthday celebration is one of the few purely social events that the League sponsors. It will be a great time to renew your friendships with fellow Leaguers and to get acquainted with some of the newer members. In fact, the League would like to welcome five new members: Marti Kurschat (Fullerton), Noella Lew (La Palma) and Susan Petrella (Fullerton). Keith Nelson (La Palma), and Carol Bittle (Orange).

BY ARLINE BURGMEIER
MEMBERSHIP CO-DIRECTOR

Nominating Committee Starts Work

LWVNOC Nominating Committee is developing a slate of Officers and Directors to be nominated for the League's 2007-2008 Board of Directors. We are asking for your wise counsel and cooperation in this important process. Let us know who you would like to see elected at our Annual Meeting on May 12. Wouldn't your name look great on the slate?

The Committee will also be seeking members who would like to participate in LWVNOC upcoming Immigration study group.

For information, nominee suggestions or questions, call Nominating Committee Chair, Deane Cassidy
714-528-4295.

Join Us at Read with League

FEBRUARY 20, (Tuesday) 7 PM, Home of Shirley Bloom ☀

An Inconvenient Truth Al Gore

"Our climate crisis may at times appear to be happening slowly, but in fact it is happening very quickly—and has become a true planetary emergency. So why is it that our leaders seem not to hear such warnings? Is it simply more convenient to ignore (them)?"

(Excerpted from the back book cover)

MARCH 13, (Tuesday) 7 PM, Home of Mary Fuhrman ☀

Selling Sickness, Ray Moynihan & Alan Cassels

"In their forceful and well-written book, the two authors highlight the influence of the pharmaceutical companies in 'disease-mongering.' These companies use powerful images to provoke fear in healthy people or offer a narrow medical response that downplays diet, exercise, and other approaches for those who may be at risk." (Taken from a Los Angeles Times book review.)

APRIL 10, (Tuesday) 7 PM, Home of Joan Cohen,

Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy by Barbara Ehrenreich & Arlie Russell Hochschild

It's best if you have read the book under discussion before we meet, but join us even if you haven't read it. **For further information**, call or e-mail Arline Burgmeier, 714/828-8624 aburgmeier@sbcglobal.net

Civics Education in Orange County

One of the major activities of the League of Women Voters of North Orange County is to help educate voters in civics, and to help them educate themselves. So it was only fitting that the first program of 2007 took on that topic as it applies to the schools of our county.

The speaker, Deborah Granger, is employed by the Orange County Department of Education to provide Services in Civics to Orange County Schools. She pointed out that we are fortunate here to have a Registrar of Voters who is actively involved in developing instructional kits to be used to help prepare kids for voting. We also have the headquarters of two organizations who can be

helpful in this effort, "The Center for Civics Education in Orange County" and the "Constitutional Rights Foundation", in addition to the work that Deane Cassidy of LWVNOC has been doing in the schools to promote Civics Education. In addition, the new Secretary of State for California is seriously interested in the area of civics education, with the objectives of improving voter turnout and the level of understanding of issues.

In closing, LWVNOC President Eileen Olmsted suggested that members should give thought to ways in which LWV and OCDE could be mutually helpful in the whole area of voter support.

30th Anniversary EdSource Forum on California Education Policy

MONEY TALKS: New Research + Candid Conversation about School Finance

During the 1970's, the California League of Women Voters helped to establish EdSource as an unbiased source of information on education issues. Now, the 30th Annual EdSource Forum will explore how much—or how little—the state of school finance has changed since 1977. Unprecedented, major new research on California school funding is currently underway and will be released this spring. Attend the forum on April 19 at the Shera-

ton Suites Fairplex in Pomona. Hear about answers unearthed during the past year through a comprehensive and landmark research project. Since LWVC is an EdSource subscriber, LWVC members are eligible for an early bird registration rate of \$50 until March 19. After that date, registration is \$60 for EdSource subscribers. For carpool info: call E. Fumanti: 949-458-2218. To register: call 650-917-9481 or visit www.edsource.org

CALENDAR

LWV Birthday Celebration

Sunday, February 11

Portofino Restaurant

Details Page 1

Immigration Reform Debate

Tuesday, February 13, 7:00PM

Chapman University Law School

Details Page 1

Read With League

An Inconvenient Truth

Tuesday, February 20, 7:00PM

Shirley Bloom's

2609 Cypress Point Drive

Fullerton, 92630, 714-870-6593

Lunch with League

Our Health Care Dilemma

Thursday February 22

11:30-1:00PM

Sizzler 1401 N Harbor Blvd

Fullerton, Cost \$12

Reservations: 714-254-7440 or

bhf1951@aol.com

LWVNOC Board Meeting

Tuesday February 27

Noon-2:00PM

1051 W. Bastanchury

Fullerton

Judicial Independence

Tuesday February 27

8:30AM

LWVNOC members are invited to an initial, exploratory meeting about the possibility of sponsoring a major forum on Judicial Independence at Sally Zivitz's home, 1337 Skyline Drive, Fullerton. We are currently looking for co-sponsors, a site, and suggestions for speakers.

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. At the same time, we are wholeheartedly political, working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to all women and men of voting age who are U.S. citizens.

Yes, I want to join.

Enclosed is my check for \$55.00 payable to LWVNOC.

Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

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714-254-7440 or www.lwvnoc.org



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LWV Birthday Celebration
Sunday, February 11, 11:30AM

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

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mefumanti@comline.com