



Voter

League of Women Voters North Orange County

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Join Us in Making Democracy Work

August 2010

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LWVC Leadership Council, Sacramento, CA May 14-16, 2010

by Pearl Mann

On Friday at 3 pm. we attended the tour of the CA State Capitol led by Trudy Schafer, LWVC's Senior Director for Program and lobbyist. She pointed out areas where lobbyists congregated and gave us an idea of how they worked in addition to the actual tour. It was fascinating and provided an opportunity to meet delegates prior to the start of the Council.

Arline Burgmeier and I attended the LWVC Office informal reception on Friday evening, where we met LWVC officers, staff and board members, as well as Council delegates and non-voting participants.

Saturday's meeting opened with a plenary session conducted by President Janis Hirohama. Her welcome was brief but inspiring. She observed that "the same policy dilemmas keep coming back." Thus, it is really important for the League to educate voters about issues and candidates, but the challenge is to educate confused voters who rely on sound bites and live in a polarized culture. The theme of the meeting: "The Next 90 Years Begin NOW, and They Begin With You." At the break, I introduced myself and briefly spoke to her. She remembered what "a good job" we did on our Judicial Independence Forum.

At lunch we chose tables with signs for table-top discussions. I sat at the membership table with Barbara Boles, Treasurer, leading the discussion.

The first afternoon breakout session (1 hr. 45 min. each) I had signed up for was "Hot Topics in California: How the League Can Make a Difference in Your Community." After 30 minutes in this session (led by Helen Hutchinson and Trudy Schafer) which was similar to our Pros and Cons on the ballot initiatives, I switched to "Helping Voters Make

Informed Choices."

This session emphasized the use of printed guides and web sites, such as the new "Fast Facts" series, "Easy Voter Guide", "Pros & Cons" and "In Depth" on state propositions and ballot measure, SmartVoter.org and "Busy Voter" (new collaboration with CA State Library). LWVC wants local leagues to tell them what our voters need, what we do with the information they provide and how can SmartVoter.org and other projects be improved to better meet our needs. I met Ernie Ting, Senior Director for Smart Voter, and spoke to him for some time at the reception. He, Linda Davis, Thea Brodtkin and Elizabeth Leslie, led the discussion about the resources and how they can help local leagues connect voters with the resources that fit their needs. (Note: Easy Voter Guide was incorrectly printed because it went to print before the certified list was available. Some uncertified candidates were listed and other certified candidates were omitted. Members were concerned about the League's credibility.)

The second session I attended was "A Little Bit of MGIK for Your League's Membership and Retention Program" chaired by Bonnie Hamlin, Member Services Director (formerly called Membership Chair) with discussion by Nikki Harris, Diane Williams and Linda Soliven. Each person gave concrete examples of their local application of the LWVUS's Membership Recruitment Initiative project (MRI), called MGIK (Membership Growth is Key) in CA and the results. I was inspired by this session.

Zaida Arguedas, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Global Democracy Programs of LWVUS gave an interesting talk at dinner which tied in the 1920's Pan American Women's Conference spearheaded by the League with modern developments. The new Costa Rica president is a woman who was inspired by a Central American woman who attended that conference. I made a point to meet Zaida at Sunday's lunch.

On Sunday morning's plenary session, the budget was briefly debated and adopted. I was able to vote as our delegate as Arline had an early flight. The Nominating Committee Chair, Kate Quick, requested that in order to be nominated for the Board, we send application forms for ourselves and other members. (See web site for nomination forms.)

There is a need for more LWVC Management Training Advisors (MTA's)--I met Caroline deLlamas, Secretary and Southern Coordinator for the LWVC MTA program.

The 2011 LWVC Convention will be in Ventura, May 13-15, 2011 with the theme "GROW THE FUTURE".

LWVNO Board Retreat, July 8, 2010

from Minutes submitted by Secretary Patti Chikahisa

Co-Presidents Kay Bruce and Wanda Shaffer welcomed us at 9:30 am in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board Room for our Annual Retreat. Our purpose to plan for the coming year and as Kay said, "to find a position/task that would be the right fit, matching our talents and interests."

Arline Burgmeier, has been gathering job descriptions to help define roles within our League and shared these with all of us. Marilyn Buchi submitted a revised payment voucher and a financial memo showing we have a balance of \$4529.63. Fran Mathews will conduct an audit to be completed by the September meeting. Lee Sjostrom will co-chair Membership with Diane Dantas, who has sent out renewal forms. Mary Fuhrman is sending out letters to school districts reminding them of Constitution Day. Frann Shermet reported that we will not be able to have our Lunch with League events at the Meridian, but would continue at the Sizzler in Fullerton. She will also continue to research a new

location.

Jeanne Blum and Marge Imbler, Co-Chairs for Voter Service, reported on their activities and recommended that due to some problems with the split shift poll service it might be good to meet with ROV in person. Dates for events leading up to the November election: Oct. 18--last day to register, Sept. 18--presentation at the Placentia Library for First Time Voters, Sept. 20--Candidate Forum at the Fullerton City Council Chambers, Oct. 4--Absentee ballots sent out, Oct. 4--Candidate Forum at the Buena Park City Council Chambers, Oct. 16--Monika Broome will present Pros' and Cons' from noon to 3 pm at CSUF in the Mackey Auditorum. Jeanne will authorize repairs to banners and sign ups for displays in cities when available.

Carol Bittle reported on progress being made with the new online Voter. Articles for submission are due by the 22nd of each month. Eleanor Fumanti and Kay Bruce continue to update our LWNOC Website and urge us to access it for Calendar events and all information pertaining to our League.

Strategic plans for 2010-2011 include the need for volunteers in the following areas:

- observer corps for city councils
- mail Voter copies to members, collect and submit member stories
- publicity
- Voter Service for several events
- Smart Voter activities
- poll workers for November election
- membership recruitment
- read with League chair
- phone monitors
- work with chairs of two national study groups
- mentor for new members

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Human Trafficking

by Marguerite Lyon

On June 5, 2010 Kirsten Kreyman, a member of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force from the Public Law Center, was the featured speaker at the Annual ILO Convention. She presented an overview of the Task Force and its operations.

A statewide proclamation issued January 11, 2010 stated: Human trafficking goes against basic human rights, and everything our country stands for. May each of us work harder to fight evil, and do everything in our power to return freedom and futures to the victims. While victims are of every age, race, gender and nationality, the majority are women and children. Human trafficking involves bringing immigrants into the United States to do forced labor including prostitution.

A three year grant of nearly three million dollars will be awarded this year in California. It will create two additional law enforcement task forces and fund efforts in Orange County, with expected funding of \$375,000 . The Daily Pilot says that more than 80 people in OC have been rescued from human trafficking since 2003 and there are over 35 people in various stages of recovery in OC today.

Our county is only part of a worldwide, national and state effort to deal with this modern day slavery. There are various excellent presentations and resources focusing on this problem. Encourage your local organizations to become aware and involved, "If something doesn't look right and you think someone may be a victim of modern day slavery, contact a Human Trafficking Resource Center."

Membership Renewals Have Arrived

from Co-Membership Chair, Diane Dantas

You should have received your renewal forms for the coming year. These are due September 1. Keep in mind all the benefits of our League and opportunities for active involvement as well as the information and resources we provide for our citizen voters.

Volunteer Hours

Please keep records of the hours that you volunteer your time doing the work of the League. These should be submitted monthly. These records will be kept to document all the good work we do.

Calendar

End of Summer Gathering

Once again Ellen Ballard has offered her lovely home for our get-together to be held on Sunday, August 29, 2010 from 4-7 p.m. Come share your hors d'oeuvres and tales of your summer activities. Ellen's address: 1434 Richman Knoll, Fullerton, 92835. (Please note corrected address!)

Kickoff Luncheon

Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. is the date and time for our annual Kickoff to be held at the Alta Vista Country Club, 777 Alta Vista Street, Placentia, CA. 92870. Our speaker for this event is Timothy Naftali, Director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, a part of the National Archives and Records Administration. Cost for the luncheon is \$25 and includes a silent auction as well as an opportunity to meet officers and other members. For reservations call 714-254-7440 or email bfhf1951@aol.com.

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