



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters Beach Cities
Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

COUNTY LEAGUE DAY – POPOVERS IN PASADENA

On July 30, 2016, a capacity audience attended the annual “Popovers in Pasadena” County League Day at the Women’s City Club of Pasadena. After introductions and announcements by various League leaders, the group broke into three workshops on different topics -- Civil Discourse, Voter Registration, and Homes for the Homeless – which are described at the end of this article.

The announcements included:

- There will be a ballot briefing at Hollenbeck House on September 24, 2016.
- We were reminded about the availability and value of Voter’s Edge (the follow-on to SmartVoter)
- The LWVC is accepting State Board nominations to serve from 2017-2019 (Contact Robbie Davis, LWVC).
- The Working Party for Children and Family has been turned over to the State. League members can join this listserve and others by going to the Members Only website: LWVC.org/lwvonly.

After the lunch, which included popovers, of course, Chris Carson was introduced as the new LWVUS President with a song (sung to the tune of “California Girls”) and a biography that listed her impressive background. Chris talked about the pride she feels in Leagues around the country. She highlighted the recent voter registration victories in Wisconsin and Texas, where the federal courts rejected key components of voter ID laws, and in North Carolina where the appeals court rejected proposed voter ID laws. She added that the State of Texas is not planning to challenge the decision but North Carolina and Wisconsin contest the decisions about their Voter ID laws so there is still work to do. We need to work to suggest some viable alternatives for the courts to follow and we know we face an uphill battle.

In her discussion of voting, Chris celebrated the fact that for the first time 30 states will have online registration and that voter registration and voting itself have become more accessible.

Chris stressed that the League is at a critical point and must adapt to (continued on page 3)

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The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

The Beach Voter

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person sixteen years of age or older, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not support, endorse or oppose candidates or political parties.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$60.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name _____
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the new age, to diversity and to the need for constructive selection of battles to fight. She noted that Leaguers “love to talk!” but we “need to stop talking and get moving!” The LWVUS has formed a committee to study League structures and brainstorm on how to change. In June of 2017, the committee will deliver a report. We need to look at our local, state and national roles and engage people who have no local Leagues, who can’t go to meetings or don’t want to. We need to make greater use of social media and technology.

Chris pointed to state Leagues, which have a vital role in developing and supporting local Leagues. The national League needs to focus on core issues, i.e.,

- Protect voters from restrictive processes
- Register and inform voters
- Reform redistricting (a process, she noted, that was begun in the 1930’s!)
- Reduce the corrupting power of money on elections.

Chris reminded us that the next round of redistricting is in four years and it is not too early to start working now! It is critical to start at the local level, limiting contributions, working for disclosure laws (fought for by the LWVC).

In the lively Q&A session that followed, Chris responded:

- We will never give up our non-partisan nature.
- We can’t let go of the copyrighted name: League of Women Voters. This is our “brand.”
- Many Leagues in the State are working on Money in Politics, including ethics reforms.
- How can we avoid being partisan now that one of the presidential candidates is female? Chris noted that specific points on this question were included in that week’s LWVUS Update. READ THE UPDATES, she insisted.
- How do we explain League to teens? Ask what they care about; start a conversation and if they say they aren’t interested, thank them for giving you their vote!
- In 2018 the LWVUS convention will be in Chicago celebrating women’s suffrage. In 2020, we return to DC for our centennial.
- Remember – no more “women in funny hats!” That was then, this is now. Chris emphasized that we need to focus on the present and future; not on the past.

In conclusion, Chris noted that the League had named an executive administrator who will be focused on organization and administration as well as raising money. We need to let go of the “old ways of doing things and JUST DO IT!

WORKSHOPS:

Civil Discourse

Sally Seven, LWV Claremont Area, began with a brief history of discussion on civil discourse, which dates back (in our country) to George Washington and his “Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior” and long before that to the Greeks and the Romans! The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo recently held a

workshop on Civil Discourse. Sally discussed their work to develop a position, following the League process for local studies. She distributed a number of handouts including the updated government position which was approved at the LWVC Convention of 2015 and which added “promote civil discourse” to the statement “The League supports policies and actions that achieve a responsive and representative government . . .” She noted the recognition the local San Luis Obispo League had received from their City Government including the incorporation of a “civil discourse” provision to the City Government mission statement. We left the workshop with a folder full of helpful handouts and encouragement to support efforts such as San Luis Obispo’s in our own Leagues. (Reported by Joan Arias)

Voter Registration (“How do we reach our young voters when we are old?”)

The voter registration seminar, titled “How do we reach our young voters when we are old?” was dynamic and informative. The first part of the meeting was spent discussing classroom engagement when speaking to high school students about voting. The leader suggested the use of visuals such as Power Point or a white board. She also used the visual of 100 pennies to represent voters, then showed the difference between voters 25 and younger and those 65 and older (less than 10% versus 75%). Specific ideas for recruitment through student government and political science classes were provided. The presentation included tips on how to engage dialogue, stimulate discussion and focus attention.

There was also discussion of methods to discourage negative behavior of those attending candidate forums, mostly by being very clear about the behavior you expect and not accepting any breaking of the rules. Attendees were reminded of the availability of on-line resources such as Voter’s Edge.com, Rockthevote.com and factcheck.org. (Reported by Marge Thelen)

Homes for the Homeless

The major crisis of homelessness and housing was addressed by guest speaker Tonja Boyrun, of the Skid Row Housing Trust, in a presentation that was both alarming and informative. In 2015 there were an estimated 46,874 homeless in L.A. County, 31% chronic and 30% suffering mental illness, with a 55% increase in females.

The Skid Row Housing Trust has been operating for 25 years, building subsidized housing as a place to be “reborn” for people suffering from drug or alcohol addiction, mental illness or poverty, who have been homeless, on the streets for more than a year, as a top priority. Facilities are provided for emergency care, health care, community centers, exercise, food and gardening services, based on the premise that individuals need housing first, and then other needs can be addressed.

Some older buildings have been rehabilitated and new buildings have been constructed, with the assistance of architects, which bring value to the existing neighborhood, but sadly, at present, only 1,856 housing units have become available. The theory is that permanent housing, with services provided is most effective for rehabilitation.

Funding comes from the federal government, bonds and fund raising from private foundations and individuals. Their goal is to end homelessness through permanent, supportive housing. Units are fully furnished. There is a coordinated entry system in Los Angeles County now, which did not exist previously. Nationally, the estimated homeless figure is 20% (over 500,000), 15% chronic, including 8% veterans. For a housing first approach, you may access LWVC.org/LWVonly. (Reported by Jan Nathanson.)

DORIS ROSENBERG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Doris Rosenberg, co-founder, former president and board member of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities, we have established the Doris Rosenberg Scholarship Fund. Doris' contributions were immeasurable. She was our historian and walking encyclopedia of current government actions. The proceeds from the contributions will be designated to aid members in need of dues assistance.

Checks should be made out to LWVBC with a note stating Doris Rosenberg Fund. All contributions should be sent to: LWVBC, 629 19th St. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

UPDATE TO LIBRARY POSITION

A committee consisting of Penny Markey, Ruth Hart and Henrietta Mosley recently drafted revisions to the language of our local Library Position to reflect current technologies and practices. The updated position, set forth below, is recommended by the LWVBC Board and will be presented for adoption by the membership at our next annual meeting.

Support for:

- Free and equal access to information for people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Stable funding based on diverse sources of revenue.
- A professional staff responsive to service area needs.
- Access to library facilities at least 6 days per week.
- The promotion of lifelong learning and literacy for all ages, from birth through older adults.
- The availability of a variety of formats, including books, audiovisual materials, and online resources.
- The availability of free computers and Internet access.
- The availability of resources for job search and small business development.
- The preservation of local and cultural history.
- The library as a gathering place and community hub to support local interests and programming.
- Collaboration and outreach among government, education, business, and civic organizations.
- Friends of the Library and other library volunteers.

TRI-LEAGUE KICKOFF BRUNCH FEATURES JUDGE MICHAEL NASH

On Saturday, August 27th the Beach Cities League hosted the annual Kick-off Brunch which was attended by members of the Torrance and Palos Verdes Peninsula Leagues as well as our own. Once again The Depot Restaurant in Torrance provided an excellent breakfast buffet.

Judge Michael Nash, Executive Director of L.A. County Office of Child Protection, was the guest speaker. Prior to assuming his new responsibilities, on January 4, 2016, he was for many years Presiding Judge of the L.A. County Juvenile Court, where he took a leading role in transforming the Children's Court (formerly called the "Juvenile Dependency Court"), which handles cases of child abuse and child neglect, to be more child- centered and child-friendly.

The Office of Child Protection was established as an outcome of recommendations by a Blue Ribbon Commission created in the aftermath of a widely publicized incident in which a child died of abuse despite being "in the system" and receiving services from various agencies. The role of his Office, which has a very small staff, is to work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and other agencies in L.A. County to carry out the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission and facilitate communication among the agencies involved with child protection. The intent is to help bring together these agencies, define their respective roles, assess how well they are managing them and how they are communicating with each other, and then plan training and cross-training to bridge the gaps.

In its first months the Office of Child Protection developed a strategic plan whose elements include (1) a prevention program to assure there are an array of services available to prevent children from falling into the child protection system in the first place; (2) coordination and communication among the various entities involved in child protective services; (3) assuring that a child visitation program is included as an integral part of the services provided; and (4) having a process in place to assure that no child touched by the system ends up dead or seriously injured.

Speaking from his past experience with the Children's Court, as well as from his new position, Judge Nash identified some of the chronic problems that plague the child protective system, including the scarcity of foster homes and inadequate support to foster parents. He emphasized that children are generally better off with their own families, and that agencies need to bring together members of the extended family, helping them define the separate roles that each relative can play in a child's life. He suggested that DCFS and the Probation Department could also do a better job of promoting cooperation between foster parents and family members.

Another problem Judge Nash addressed was the prescribing of psychotropic medications to children in foster homes. The rule now is that such medications are only to be prescribed with authorization from a doctor who has been certificated for this role from the L.A. County

Department of Mental Health.

Finally, Judge Nash addressed concerns about children who “age out of” (or “transition from”) the foster system at age 21 (formerly at age 18). Since not enough transition housing is available and never will be, the goal is to have as many as possible end up in a permanent home so they don’t “age out.” Lacking that he would like to see commitments from all the services agencies as to what they will do for transition-age kids.

During a short question and answer session, Judge Nash elaborated on some of the topics he had discussed. He also expressed gratitude for the help of the volunteers who act as children’s advocates in the Children’s Court, including some League members, such as Beach Cities’ President Barbara Arlow. For more information on that effort, attendees were referred to www.casala.org.

TRI-LEAGUE FORUMS

On Wednesday, October 12 at 7 p.m. the Beach Cities, Torrance and Palos Verdes Peninsula Leagues will hold public forums for candidates in three electoral races at the Toyota Meeting Hall, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA. Questions for the candidates will be submitted by the audience. The races and contenders are as follows:

33rd Congressional District – Ted Lieu and Kenneth Wright
State Assembly District 66 – David Hadley and Al Muratsuchi
L.A. County Board of Supervisors District 4 – Janice Hahn and Steve Napolitano

MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

If you have an interest in the area of mental health, we would like to have you join our League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities mental health committee that is being formed to plan a forum on that topic. The forum will take place in April 2017 and will be open to the South Bay community.

LWV Beach Cities members who have already joined the committee include: June Eicker, Debra Estroff, Ruth Hart, Joan LeSage, Jan Nathanson and Margaret Thelen. Invitations to join will also be sent to members of the Torrance and Palos Verdes Peninsula Leagues.

Please contact Harriet Chase, Chair, if interested in joining the committee or if you wish more information at hzchase@roadrunner.com or 310-545-1026.

PAPERLESS VOTER

We’re hoping you’re interested in receiving the Voter by e-mail. In addition to saving trees and helping the environment it will allow us to put the savings from paper, printing and postage to other uses. Contact Barbara Arlow at gerbar92@msn.com or 310-379-6663.

CALENDAR

Date	Time	Subject	Place
Saturday September 24, 2016	9:30 am - noon	Fall County League Day: Ballot Measure Training, Advocacy Workshop	Hollenbeck Park Los Angeles
Saturday and Sunday October 1-2	10:00 am – 5:00 pm	M.B. Hometown Fair LWVBC Voter Registration Table	In “Free Speech” area at north end of fairgrounds
Tuesday September 27	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Voter Registration	Inglewood Public Library 101 W. Manchester Blvd. Inglewood, CA
Wednesday October 12	7:00 pm	Tri-Leagues Forums (For candidates & races, see p. 5.)	Toyota Meeting Hall 3330 Civic Center Drive Torrance
Thursday October 13	7:00 pm	Pros and Cons Presentation	Manhattan Beach City Council Chamber 1400 Highland Ave.
Thursday October 20	12:00 noon	Pros and Cons Presentation Man. Bch. Seniors	Joslyn Community Center 1601 N. Valley Drive Manhattan Beach, CA



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