



The Beach Voter

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

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities is planning a slate of membership meetings for the spring on three important and timely issues. Our January meeting will address air quality, with specific focus on how it is impacted by climate change and the current drought. Higher education will be the subject of the February membership meeting; this will be the first step in the State study described on page 5. Finally, the April meeting will focus on the homeless in the South Bay. More details on the January and February meetings are found on pages 4 and 5 of this *Voter*. Information on the April meeting will appear in the next issue.

What about March? Well, in March we will host the annual Lasagna Dinner. This is a Tri-League event, in which the Beach Cities, Torrance, and Palos Verdes Peninsula chapters come together for good food and discussion. The speaker for this event is yet to be announced.

Membership meetings for LWVBC are held on the 4th Monday of each month, usually at 7:00 pm. As the renovation of the Manhattan Beach Library is not yet complete, this year's meetings are being held in a variety of locations. Check the Calendar on the last page of every *Voter* for locations and times. The information can also be found on our website at www.beachvoter.org.

Save the Dates:

January 26: Cleaning the Air That We Breathe
February 23: Higher Education in California
March 23: Lasagna Dinner
April 27: Homeless in the South Bay

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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 League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, 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 of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

The Beach Voter	
President:	Barbara Arlow
Editor:	Ruth Hart
Copy Editor:	Barbara Arlow
Production:	Mignon Thiem-Murphy Peggy Bartlett Susan Grebe Sunhee Park
Labels:	Ann Martin

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 _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Address: _____

LIVELY DISCUSSION AND HOLIDAY SPIRIT DURING PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING – Jan Nathanson

More than 20 members, new and continuing, joined together at the December meeting to review the LWVC state positions and to decide whether the LWV Beach Cities would recommend a new study. Positions are determined after study, consensus is reached by members and ultimately approved at a state convention. An example is our current study of higher education. Once a consensus is reached and adopted, the League can take action at the legislative level or through the initiative process.

In brief, the results of small group discussions and the 23 attending members as a whole, are as follows:

GOVERNMENT: Members agreed to retain all current positions, which include campaign financing, constitution, election systems, the initiative and referendum process, intergovernmental relationships, public libraries, redistricting, state and local finances, and voting rights. In the area of campaign financing, members suggested that the position-in-brief add a focus on limiting the amount of money that can be given to campaigns and add a position to impose penalties for false or fraudulent pre-election advertising. In the area of constitution, members suggested that the position-in-brief focus on making it easier to remove items from the constitution. In the area of election systems, we recommend that all state elections be held on the first Tuesday in June (primary) and November (general election) rather than randomly throughout the year, as is currently the case. We would also like to see those two days be celebrated as State Holidays. The goal is to increase voter participation.

NATURAL RESOURCES: Members agreed to retain all positions, which include agriculture--with emphasis on GMOs; air quality; energy; hazardous materials with emphasis on GMOs; land use; solid waste; transportation with emphasis on emissions of vehicles and effect of GMOs and general emphasis on water.

SOCIAL POLICY: Members agreed to retain all positions under social policy, which include child care, community college system (now part of the higher education study), education from Pre K -12, housing, juvenile justice/dependency, legal aid, and mental health care.

(continued on p. 4)

(Program Planning Meeting, continued from p. 3)

Unanimous agreement was to recommend a new study of the minimum wage (as it relates to poverty).

If you wish to review these positions in detail, please go to the LWV web site at www.lwvc.org.

Thank you to all who participated and to the presenters and committee: June Eicker, Harriet Chase, Joan Arias, Maggie Wilkinson, Barbara Arlow, and Margaret Thelen.

WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

Do you have an idea for a local program that would be of interest to League members? All LWVBC members are encouraged to suggest topics for local programs in areas of their interest. All such recommendations should be sent to Jan Nathanson at rjnathanson@yahoo.com or (310) 643-6247.

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BEACH CITIES

CLEANING THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE

Climate Change
Effects of the Drought
Ozone Levels
Increase of Smog Levels in the Basin
EPA Standards
Air Quality Management Plan

Guest Speaker:

WILLIAM SANCHEZ

SCAQMD Senior Manager: Legislative and Public Affairs

Monday, January 26th

7:00pm

Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club
2515 Valley Drive (south of Gould)
(Artesia becomes Gould west of Sepulveda)

For additional information (310)322-7870 www.beachvoter.org

**HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA
LEGACY OF THE 1960 MASTER PLAN**

**Monday, February 23, 2015
7:00-8:30 pm
Kiwanis Club, 2515 Valley Dr., Hermosa Beach**

Is the California Higher Education Master Plan working?

In 1960 the California Legislature passed The California Higher Education Master Plan. It was designed to serve as a beacon for education excellence in California.

The League of Women Voters of California is conducting a 3-year study to evaluate the impact of the Master Plan fifty years later and evaluate its current effectiveness. The League is spearheading the study to examine current access to quality public higher education in California including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to success.

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities is joining the Torrance LWV and the Palos Verdes/San Pedro LWV in working with the State League to study this issue as well as to provide input to the State League.

In this, our first joint program in a projected series, we will focus on the California Higher Education Master Plan. How did it come about? What were the goals and objectives? What was accomplished and where are we now?

The featured speaker is David Leveille, PhD. Prior to his retirement he served in Executive Management positions within the Chancellor's Office of The California State University System. David has been actively involved in the implementation and evaluation of the Master Plan since its inception. Additionally, LWVBC member Ruth Hart will give a presentation on the Master Plan that she originally developed for the Omnilore learning-in-retirement organization.

We hope that you will join us to listen, ask questions and help us figure out how to proceed.

IN MEMORIAM – JACK SULLIVAN

LWV of Los Angeles County board member Jack Sullivan passed away on December 2, 2014. Jack was a wealth of knowledge on natural resources - especially water - and provided outstanding articles for the County Voter. He had served on the LWVC board and was on the LWVC natural resources committee.

A memorial service for Jack will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 2 p.m. The location for the memorial service is

Claremont Manor
650 W. Harrison
Claremont, CA

The family requests "no flowers". In lieu, either a contribution to an environmental organization of your choice or a contribution to the scholarship fund in his name at Pitzer College where he had been a Professor would be appreciated.

John D. Sullivan Annual Scholarship Fund
Pitzer College
c/o Advancement Office
1050 N. Mills Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711

DEATH WITH DIGNITY – Barbara Arlow

The League of Women Voters of San Diego (LWVSD) would like LWVC to take a position on Death With Dignity. There have been a number of California legislative bills and at least one ballot proposition to address the issue. None have passed. LWVSD has formed a committee to write a proposal for a state study to be voted on at the 2015 state convention in San Diego. They would like Beach Cities to support the proposal. Please email Barbara Arlow at gerbar92@msn.com or call [\(310\)379-6663](tel:3103796663) to let us know whether or not you are in favor of supporting the proposal.

CALENDAR			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Monday January 26th	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Membership Meeting Air Quality	Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club 2515 Valley Drive HB
Monday February 9th	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Maggie Wilkinson 430 Loma Vista St. El Segundo
Monday February 23rd	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Membership Meeting Higher Education	Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club 2515 Valley Drive HB
Monday March 23rd	TBD	Lasagna Dinner	Katy Geissert Civic Center Library 3301 Torrance Boulevard Torrance
Saturday March 28th	TBD	County Convention	Carson Community Center Carson



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