



# ***The Beach Voter***

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

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## **HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS:**

### **What's Happening in the South Bay Homeless Community**

#### ***A panel discussion on solutions to ending homelessness in the South Bay***

On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30 pm, the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness are co-sponsoring a program about those experiencing homelessness in the South Bay. A panel of local experts will first outline what homelessness looks like based on the Homeless Count that was conducted countywide in January, and then will describe specific programs designed to provide services to the most vulnerable of those living on the streets.

A question and answer period will also be provided. This free program will be held at the Redondo Beach Main Library, located at 303 North Pacific Coast Highway, in its 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. Free parking is available in the Library's lower level garage.

The following specialists will be speaking on these topics:

- Mark Silverbush and Nancy Wilcox, Co-Chairs of the South Bay Coalition to End Homeless, will present an overview of homelessness in the South Bay and available community resources.
- Tahia Hayslet, Executive Director of Harbor Interfaith Services, will explain the countywide coordinated assessment programs to house individuals and families.
- Paul Stansbury, President of National Alliance for Mental Illness South Bay and Homes for Life Board Chair, will share the programs available for those suffering from mental illness.
- Ivan Mason, Executive Director of U.S. Veterans Initiative, will describe the programs available for homeless veterans.
- Chika Hara, Transitional Shelter Family Advocate at the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, will talk about shelters and transitional housing for domestic violence survivors.

All members of the community are invited, including city government staff, elected officials, law enforcement, educators, businesses, members of the faith community, and interested citizens.

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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	
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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 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

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## JOIN A LWV STUDY COMMITTEE – Jan Nathanson

Study committees are an excellent way to learn more about League positions and to encourage action, update the League position, or plan for presenting new information. You will meet Leaguers with the same or similar interests, increase your knowledge and make or reinforce friendships.

Committees now in action or forming are the Higher Education Committee, the Environmental or Natural Resources Committee and the Health Committee. Higher Education is working on a new study on the state level. The committee just held its first membership meeting on the "1960 Master Plan." Expanded areas will be studied in the next two years. The Natural Resources Committee had a membership meeting this year on the air we breathe and the drought. They have interest in water (a major priority for League) and the effect of GMOs (which crosses over into other areas such as health). The Health Committee is currently forming, based on the League's national position.

If you have interest in any of these subjects or other positions, whether local, county, state or national, or have recommendations for future studies, especially local, please contact Jan Nathanson at [310-643-6247](tel:310-643-6247). We are an organization that has many interests and positions developed over 95 years. We still make a difference at all levels of government.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND SALAD LUNCHEON

Saturday May 9, 2015  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach

This is our annual event to wrap up the year. *Please bring a salad to share* and ideas for what you would like to see our League focus on for the coming year. It is your ideas and participation that make up our direction and focus. We are a grassroots organization and now is the time to plan for the coming year.

A kit will be sent by email to all members who have an email address, and by U.S. mail to those who do not. Please print the kit and bring it to the meeting.

You are encouraged to bring a guest. Guests do not have to bring anything other than their interest in learning about League, who we are, and what we do.

Parking is limited. If you would like to carpool please contact Susan Grebe at [regrebe6072@aol.com](mailto:regrebe6072@aol.com) or 310 545 2097.

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## **LASAGNA SUPPER – Susan Grebe**

Our Lasagna Supper was a big success thanks to the efforts of the very talented committee – Mignon Thiem-Murphy’s decorations got the party started as they set the tone in purple splendor – the heather plants that decorated each table were just beautiful! Peggy Bartlett was at her organizational best as she kept track of what everyone was doing, as well as checking all the guests in. Sunhee Park took command of the serving table and made sure everyone was well fed, as well as supplying the beautiful birthday cake wishing the League a Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Harriet Chase and Maggie Wilkinson came early to help set-up and the rest of our board were at the ready to help with clean up and anything else that was needed. Barbara Arlow introduced our speaker Hinnaneh Qazi who skillfully led through the maze of Money in Politics (see following article).

A most heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the evening so special!

## **POLITICAL SPENDING AFTER CITIZENS UNITED AND McCUTCHEON** **Henrietta Mosley**

The Tri-League Lasagna Supper on Monday, March 23 featured Hinnaneh Qazi, Common Cause Operations Director, speaking on “Money in Politics: How Unfettered Money Has Changed America’s Political Landscape.” As the result of a series of decisions in which the United States Supreme Court relaxed donation rules, she said, elections have become less democratic and more susceptible to corruption, making it possible for wealthy donors to have a dominant influence on the outcome. She characterized the issue of money in politics as “the issue of our time.”

In 2010 the Court ruled in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that corporations, unions and other special interests have a constitutional right to spend as much as they like to *advocate* the election or defeat of political candidates. Laws that bar those interests from *contributing directly* to candidates remain in place, but the ruling lifted controls on “independent” political spending.

On April 2, 2014 the Court in McCutcheon, et al. v. FCC struck down aggregate limits on the amount an individual may contribute during a two-year period to all federal candidates, parties and political action committees combined, ruling such limits unconstitutional under the First Amendment. (Base limits on individual contributions to federal candidate campaigns, PACs or party committees remain in place.)

Ms. Qazi said that following the ruling in Citizens United, independent groups’ spending tripled from one Presidential election to the next. “Independent” groups put more than \$1 billion into the 2012 election, with more than \$300 million of that coming from groups that do not disclose their

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(Political Spending - continued from p. 4)

donors. She presented data indicating that most independent spending comes from a tiny severely unrepresentative sliver of the overall population. In short, a wealthy few have increased ability to influence elections, drowning out the voices of ordinary citizens. This situation creates an even more powerful incentive for elected officials to follow the donors' wishes in legislating.

According to Ms. Qazi, a United States Senator must raise roughly \$4,600 each day of his or her six-year term and a House member \$2,000 each day of his or her two-year term to reach the winning average in campaign expenditures. As a result, lawmakers spend more time fundraising and less time devoted to the work we have elected them to do. The 2012 Presidential election was the most expensive election in history with \$7 billion dollars expended and the 2014 election was the most expensive mid-term election with \$3.67 billion expended.

Ms. Qazi provided a handout titled "Whose Government? Whose Voice?" that summarizes a recent report by Common Cause on how big money has drowned out public opinion on such issues as minimum wage, gun control, climate change, student debt, and net neutrality. The full report is available at [www.commoncause.org/whosevoice](http://www.commoncause.org/whosevoice).

Common Cause would favor a Constitutional amendment to reverse the decisions in Citizens United and McCutcheon but realizes this is a long-term goal. Efforts that may produce more immediate results are directed toward supporting campaign finance systems that enable candidates to run for and win office by relying solely upon contributions from ordinary Americans, and disclosure laws that give more accessible information to voters about who is donating. Public financing exists in many cases at the state and local level but would require Congressional action at the federal level.

Under the heading "What you can do!" Ms. Qazi provided the following sources of additional information:

Local/Statewide: Public Financing – [commoncause.org/empowervoters](http://commoncause.org/empowervoters)  
Statewide: Proposition 49 - [yesonCA49.com](http://yesonCA49.com)  
Federal: Democracy for All Amendment (SJR 5 and HJR 22)  
Government By the People Act (HR 20)  
Common Cause: Website: [ca.commoncause.org](http://ca.commoncause.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/commoncauseca](https://www.facebook.com/commoncauseca)

### **CAROLE WAGNER VALLIANOS, BEACH CITIES MEMBER, HONORED**

Carole, former LWVCA President, LWVUS Board member and LWV Beach Cities President was honored at Richstone Family Center's 20th annual "An Affair of the Heart - My Big Fat Greek Gala". She said the programs at Richstone are specifically designed to prevent domestic violence and child abuse. Carole has served on Richstone's Board of Directors for five years.

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## LWV LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONVENTION – Susan Grebe

The convention was held March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Carson City Center. Besides the usual business portion of the meeting, budget and nominations, we had the pleasure of being addressed by State President Helen Hutchinson who put out a very enthusiastic call to Convention. She described numerous workshops and enticed the group with an impressive list of speakers including the California Secretary of State Alex Padilla and Carolyn Lukensmeyer of AmericaSpeaks.

The main event of the morning was an address to the group by Hilda Solis, the new Los Angeles County Supervisor for the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Supervisor Solis started off her remarks with her own personal story. She was born to immigrant parents from Mexico and Nicaragua who met in a US citizenship class. Her parents were hard working and cared for their family of seven children, of which Ms. Solis was number three. In high school a counselor advised her to take a secretarial course, as they did not think she was college material. However, there was a different counselor at her La Puente High School who did see her promise and helped her and her parents fill out the forms to enter college. Being the first in her family to earn a college degree, she graduated from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona with a degree in Political Science and later earned a Masters degree from USC in Public Administration.

Her first elected office was in 1985 when she was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Community College District. During this time she worked to improve vocational job training at the college and sought to increase the number of tenured faculty positions held by minorities and women. In 1992 she was elected as the 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District representative. During her two-year tenure she worked on a bill to allow illegal residents to attend California colleges as long as they were living in the state. She also served on committees dealing with education, labor and environmental issues. After two years in the Assembly she ran for the State Senate, winning a seat in the 24<sup>th</sup> Senate District. In the Senate she worked to sponsor 17 bills regarding domestic violence as well as sponsoring a bill to raise the minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75. She still continued to be a strong voice for labor, education and health issues. In 2000 she ran for and was elected to the US Congress 31<sup>st</sup> District (after the 2000 census, redistricting changed her district to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District). In that same year she was given the JFK Profiles in Courage Award in large part due to her work in environmental justice. Her committee work in Congress centered around energy & commerce, natural resources and conservation and climate change. However, she still championed education, labor, and immigration policy.

After eight years in Congress she was chosen by the White House to be the 25<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Labor. One of her main thrusts was to address income inequality, especially the disparity of a woman's wage verses a man's wage for doing the same job. This disparity becomes even more pronounced when looking at the statistics of women in the black and Hispanic community where on average they will earn 55 cents for every dollar a male earns.

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Supervisor Solis has spent her career looking out for the “little guy”, for the disenfranchised, for families and healthy communities. As Supervisor she hopes to reinstate some of the trauma centers at public hospitals that have been dismantled in the past years. She also wants to focus on women veterans who struggle to re-enter the work force, but don’t take advantage of the services due them. She plans to have programs that help working people plan for retirement. She would like to find ways to see more women in the work force of the 100,000 county employees. Affordable housing is high on her list since even in the less affluent neighborhoods of East Los Angeles an annual income of \$80,000 per year is needed to become a homeowner. She and the other Supervisors are working together in a harmonious atmosphere that she credits, in part, to the fact that there are now two women on the five-member Board.

**LWVBC CO-SPONSORS INGLEWOOD  
BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES FORUM  
Joan Arias and Barbara Inatsugu**

On March 25, 2015, Barbara Inatsugu, LWV Santa Monica, moderated a Candidates Forum for the Inglewood Board of Education candidates. Susan Grebe and Joan Arias assisted with the timing for the event. The moderately attended forum brought together seven of the nine candidates for the Board. Board members are elected citywide for specific seats. Candidates gave 90-second introductory statements and closing statements. During the forum Barbara Inatsugu asked candidates a series of questions to which the candidates responded for one minute for each question.

Because the school district has been taken over by the State of California, the Board of Education is an advisory one. This election is important because election and training of advisory board members is an important aspect of rehabilitating the district as it works toward a return to local control. State Trustee Dr. Donn Brann spoke at the beginning of the forum explaining his role as trustee and the role and responsibilities of the advisory board. When authority is returned to the local district one of the necessary criteria to meet will be having in place a school board that is ready, trained and able to resume leadership.

Candidates at the forum were: Seat 1 - Dionne Young Falk , Margaret Richards Bowers; Seat 3 – Melody Ngaue-Tuuholoaki, Seat 4 – Margaret Evans, Darius Leevy, Graciela Patino (the incumbent); Seat 5 – D’artagnon Scorza. There are 9 candidates. Henry Brown and Rene Talbott, both candidates for Seat 5, were unable to attend.

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(Inglewood Board of Education Forum – continued from p. 7)

The candidates responded to a wide range of questions with intelligence and enthusiasm. They all expressed their deep commitment to the children in the Inglewood Schools and a desire to improve the schools, attract students back to the schools and remove Inglewood from the receivership in which the system currently finds itself.

Camille Woolfolk, past President of the Inglewood Council of PTAs introduced the Forum. Dr. Don Brann, State Trustee for the Inglewood Unified School District welcomed the group and Barbara Inatsugu followed with the ground rules and candidate introduction. She also moderated the forum.

Some of the questions asked were:

- How can you keep students or attract them back to the schools knowing they have choices?
- How can we stop losing students to charters and other districts?
- How can you engage the school community (parents, staff, teachers, students)?
- All candidates make promises; if you are elected how will you keep your promises?
- What is your plan to get out of state control?
- What are three things you will do to make sure we won't be in state control again?
- What will you do to make sure the new board (once elected) will act as a team?
- Do you have plans to promote funding for AP classes rather than remedial classes?
- What is your understanding of how the Measure GG funds are supposed to be allocated?
- What unique skill do you feel you will bring to the Board?

## **LWV CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION LET THE SUN SHINE IN!**

The 65th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California will be held from 10:00 am, Friday, May 15, through 3 pm, Sunday, May 17, 2015, with special pre-Convention events on Thursday, May 14, 2015. Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work! Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our blog: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS – Kathy Berlin & Maggie Wilkinson****VOTER By Email**

The LWVBC Environment Committee encourages all members to receive the Voter by email, instead of receiving a paper copy. You can print out a copy from the email version if you wish. To request your copy of the Voter by email, not paper, please email Barbara Arlow at [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com) and put “LWVBC VOTER by email” in the subject line. This is not only more environmentally sound, but will save the LWVBC money! Thanks for helping!!

**League Advocacy**

The LWVBC Environment Committee encourages all members to get involved in League advocacy. It's so easy! A click of the computer! The National League requests advocacy action in League Advocacy emails which Barbara Arlow forwards to LWVBC members whose email addresses she has. Just scroll down and click on one or all of the requested advocacy actions! Your action counts!! Be sure Barbara has your email address. Send it to her at [gerbar92@msn.com](mailto:gerbar92@msn.com). Put “LWVUS League Advocacy emails” in the subject line. Thanks for participating!

**Doing Our Part**

There are a number of ways we can help reduce the effects of climate change which is contributing to the warm weather and the drought we are experiencing here in California.

- Replace old light bulbs with LED bulbs.
- Recycle and reuse.
- Reduce driving.
- Lower the thermostat in your home in winter and raise it in the summer.
- Install solar panels.
- Disconnect the electronic devices you have in your home when they are not in use.
- Reduce the amount of water you use in your home and in the outdoor areas of your property.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.

**NON-EVENT UPDATE – Susan Grebe**

We have three more people to thank for their contributions to the non-event: Jan Nathanson, Pat Dreizler, and Jim Stewart. With everyone's help we were able to reach our goal of \$3000.00 (\$3082.00 to be exact).

<b>CALENDAR</b>			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Monday April 13, 2015	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	Home of Joan Arias 720 8 <sup>th</sup> Street Hermosa Beach
Monday April 27, 2015	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Membership Meeting – Homeless Not Helpless	Redondo Beach Main Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 303 N. PCH Redondo Beach
Saturday May 9, 2015	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Annual Meeting	Home of Peggy Bartlett 701 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Manhattan Beach
Friday May 15, 2015 – Sunday May 17, 2015	10:00 am Friday – 3:00 pm Sunday	LWVC State Convention	Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter San Diego



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**Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**