



THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

310 / 793-0569 www.beachvoter.org

serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, April 7

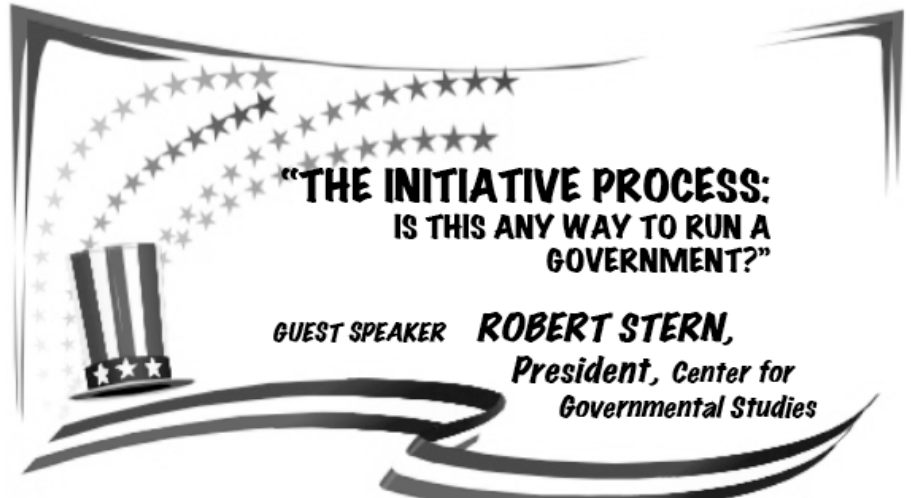
7:00-8:45 PM

EDUCATION

**in the South Bay:
Breakthroughs & Challenges**

Redondo Beach Main Library
2nd Floor Meeting Room
303 N Pacific Coast Hwy

Please see enclosed flyer



SPONSORED BY THE TRI LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES – PALOS VERDES – TORRANCE

18TH ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER

SUPPER (\$10.00) 6:00 P.M. PROGRAM 7:00 P.M.

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance
Thursday, March 13, 2008

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
AND SEND WITH TEAR-OFF BY MARCH 7, 2008

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Send to: Peggy Bartlett 701 13th Street Manhattan Beach 90266 Ph: 310-545-1087
 Number of reservations _____ @ \$10.00 per person — check enclosed for \$ _____
 Name(s) _____
 Phone _____
 League _____

PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION OF DAY GIVEN IN
LAST MONTH'S ENCLOSURE TO
THURSDAY, MARCH 13

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

Administrative Committee

Doris Rosenberg,
President of Record

Peggy Bartlett

Susan Grebe

Editor

Henrietta Mosley

Production

Mignon Thiem

Circulation

Ann Martin

The League affirms our belief in and 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 Afloat in L.A. Harbor

Sometimes Board members get to have fun! On February 7 leaders from local Leagues were treated to a tour of L.A. Harbor by the Port Authority.

It was a bright morning after days of rain. The waters of the harbor were clear and sparkling. Sea lions cavorted and sea birds—pelicans, cormorants, terns and gulls—were plentiful. Efforts to clean up the water in the port complex appear to have been successful.

Efforts to clean up the air have been less so. On the way down we encountered the usual thick band of smog hovering above the Harbor Freeway. Two key elements of the Clean Air Action Plan that Executive Director Geraldine Knatz described to Leaguers at last year's LWV/LA County Convention have hit snags.

The program to subsidize trucking companies' purchases of alternative-fuel trucks through cargo fees is moving forward, but the Port of Long Beach recently jumped ship from a related union-backed proposal that would phase out independent truckers. Plans to require vessels entering the port to switch from bunker fuel to cleaner fuels, or plug into dockside electric power sources, have been successfully challenged in federal court. Berth 100, located in the area where Todd Shipyards used to be and utilized by China Shipping, is so far the only Alternative Maritime Power (AMP) terminal.

Smaller, more manageable, steps have been taken. These include conversion of support equipment to alternative fuels, measures to reduce truck idling and innovations to increase efficiency in cargo handling which also result in decreased emissions.

In addition to the attention paid to environmental issues, the tour provided a wealth of information on security measures at the port, the volume of cargo handled (roughly half the products coming into the U.S.A.!) and how that cargo is tracked. We marveled at the giant cranes and the skill with which they are operated. But we also saw that the challenges facing the nation's largest cargo port are many and of enormous potential consequence to its neighbors. The League will stay tuned.

By Henrietta Mosley, Voter Editor

We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to long-time Voter Editor and Beach Cities Board member Jeanne Leuschner, who fell and broke her hip during a visit to San Francisco. Jeanne, your League buddies miss you! We look forward to having you back soon.

EL SEGUNDO CANDIDATES FORUM

On Wednesday, March 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM candidates for the El Segundo City Council and City Clerk will participate in a forum co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and the El Segundo Chamber of Commerce. El Segundo's Municipal Election will take place on Tuesday, April 8. The forum will be at the Hacienda Hotel, 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., in El Segundo.

Barbara Arlow will be moderator. The forum will be taped and cablecast by El Segundo Cable Company.

Find polling place and candidate information on smartvoter.org.

Linda Mack, Voters Service Co-Chair

We were saddened to hear that Jim McElmell passed away on January 18. Jim was a long-time member who regularly attended League meetings with his wife Betty when they lived in Manhattan Beach. They moved to Long Beach a couple of years ago. We extend our condolences to Betty and to their daughter Lindsay McElmell of Tucson, Arizona.

REDONDO BEACH GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE A PROGRESS REPORT

Editor's Note: Since last fall Jim Stewart has been serving as the Beach Cities League's delegate to the Redondo Beach Mayor's Citizens Committee on Growth Management and Traffic (CGMT). Here he reports on his experiences so far.

At long last, I have something to report. The process of learning how to update the City General Plan is over and we are about to start work in earnest. But first, a short history for League members who may not be aware of our involvement.

After the League Board did me the honor of asking me to be its nominee, I was sworn in by Mayor Gin on October 16 with 32 other committee members at a ceremony in the chambers of the Redondo Beach City Council. The committee members are largely nominees of civic organizations concerned about our city or nominees of city commissions. Our first meeting was on November 12. At this and three subsequent monthly meetings we have been learning about the State requirements and some of the technical aspects necessary to our task of advising the Mayor and the City Council on how we citizens would like to see our City General Plan updated.

The work of the CGMT for the remaining five meetings—we will be de-commissioned on June 30—is being supplemented by a series of Public Workshops to engage a broader cross section of the community and some special needs groups and integrate their inputs into the process. A meeting with a Special Housing Needs Focus Group is scheduled for February 28 and 29. The first Public Workshop is planned for March 1 with others to follow on May 31 and July 26 at the Knob Hill Community Center at 320 Knob Hill. I'll report on these meetings in future issues of the *Beach Voter*.

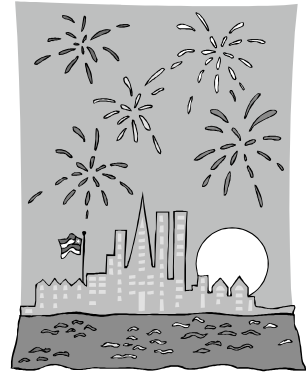
James Stewart, LWVBC Delegate to the CGMT

Another Spectacular Annual Non-Event

Thanks to all our generous Beach Cities League members the contributions for our annual Non-Event fund-raiser are pouring in. All donations are welcome, no matter the amount. Below are the members who have already sent in their contribution. There is still time to respond and be included.

Peggy Bartlett, Treasurer

BARBARA ARLOW	DORIS ROSENBERG	LINDA MACK
HENRIETTA MOSLEY	BARBARA HAMMER	JAN NATHANSON
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SUNHEE PARK	MARION GREENMAN	SUSAN GREBE
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MARY LOU BRENNEMAN	LILLIAN LUNT	WANDA ARCOS
LANCE WIDMAN	ELIZABETH JENSEN	JANIS HIROHAMA / JAMES POLLARD
MARILYN DUBAS	ROBERT KOCH	MARGARET THELEN
MICHELLE MURPHY	JOANN KENNELLY	CAROLE WAGNER VALLIANOS
ANNABEL SIMS	ELIZABETH SCHREINER	HARRIET CHASE
		PAT DREIZLER



THE YEAR OF EDUCATION REDEFINED

Last year Governor Schwarzenegger declared 2008 “The Year of Education.” As recently as December 2007, we were still hearing that school finance and reform were a high priority.

What a difference a month makes!

In January 2008, the governor declared a fiscal emergency, in accordance with Proposition 58 of 2004. He also proposed midyear education budget cuts of \$400 million for the current fiscal year, as well as further reductions in the 2008-09 budget of \$4.4 billion, which would require a suspension of Proposition 98, the minimum public education funding guarantee for our schools. Even for those who expect the unexpected in Sacramento, this is unprecedented. It sets the stage for potentially one of the most difficult (some say disastrous) years for education in California’s history.

It makes the League’s role in education reform even more important.

The “year” of education should not be a victim of the budget crisis. We all know that achieving real reform in California’s public education system is not a one-year process. What may be a difficult year for current education programs can be an ideal year for long-term planning. It will take broad public and political understanding of the basic issues involved and a sense of urgency, as well as agreement on reforms that are both educationally sound and politically viable, to move forward.

For a local perspective, come to “EDUCATION in the South Bay: Breakthroughs & Challenges” on Monday, April 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Redondo Beach Main Library. Co-sponsored by the LWVBC and the Redondo Beach Public Library. See enclosed flyer.

LOCAL WATER PROVIDERS ADDRESS FEBRUARY MEETING

At our February membership meeting on “The Water Crisis As it Affects the South Bay,” our members and guests were given an opportunity to learn about our South Bay water supply sources and how the imported sources are dwindling. We also had an opportunity to discuss options for conserving water in our homes.

Lisa Mann, Customer Services Manager for the California Water Service Company, Rancho Dominguez District, spoke to us first explaining the role Cal Water plays as the water retailer for the cities of Hermosa, Redondo and Hawthorne in our League area. She also discussed conservation actions we can take and told us about the conservation kits available at local Cal Water offices and the rebates we can qualify for by purchasing water efficient toilets and washing machines. Following Lisa, Fernando Paludi, Manager of Planning and Water Resources for the West Basin Municipal Water District, talked with us about the sources of our water supply and the energy requirements of the various sources – imported water, ground water, recycling and ocean desalination. He also discussed conservation actions available to our cities and to us as homeowners.

From the beginning of the presentations the audience had lots of questions particularly for Fernando which he was happy to answer. In addition to their presentations, they had brought many brochures and printed information for us the take home which emphasized water-wise living for the home and garden. The meeting was well received by all and was attended by a number of guests who learned about it from flyers and word of mouth. Our speakers were very generous with their time, even staying after the meeting to answer questions. Those of you who didn't attend might want to visit bewaterwise.com on the web to learn more about what we can each do to help conserve water and bring us closer to being a drought-proof region.

Maggie Wilkinson, Environment Chair



PORT OF LOS ANGELES

From right, clockwise: Blue heron and cranes; Fireboat No. 1; China Shipping's AMP terminal; Cranes with snowy mountains behind smog.

Our thanks to Barbara Barker of the Torrance League for her photos.





Immigration Study – Beach Cities League Reaches Consensus

After two well attended and successful meetings, the Beach Cities League of Women Voters submitted our consensus to LWVUS on the Immigration study. Despite some objections to the form the consensus took (more of a “vote” than a ‘consensus’ in the League tradition), we did reach agreement. Here are the high priority areas by question – I think we can see a trend of compassion and recognition of national needs from some of the high priority concerns.

We discussed each question and determined which were the highest in priority. Then, within the high priorities, the group determined the three most critical. These were the results:

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

- Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs – rated the most important of these high-priority criteria
- Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children – considered second in importance
- Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries – voted third in importance
- History of Criminal Activity
- Rights of Families to Remain Together

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

- The only “high priority” item was: Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:

- Immediate Family members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S.
- Entering the U.S. to meet Labor Needs
- Entering the U.S. because of Persecution in Home Country

Question 4: This question dealt with immigration laws and how to deal with unauthorized immigrants. We had seven high-priority enforcement points including increased personnel at all entry points, more effective tracking of people with non-immigrant visas, verification documents (Green Cards and Work Permits), improved technology to help employers verify their employees’ status., guest worker programs and significant fines for employers who do not verify the work authorization of their employees.

Question 5: We agreed that federal Immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Question 6: We agreed that federal law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities as well as living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

For more information on the immigration study nationwide, go to the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org.

Joan Arias, Immigration Study Chair

Why I Joined the League by Ruth Hart

I've known about the League of Women Voters for most of my adult life. Before every election, I diligently read their positions on the various ballot propositions (although I sometimes disagreed with their positions), and I especially appreciated the information they published on the candidates for judicial office. However, I was consumed with my job as a software engineer and with raising my two daughters, and had no time for outside activities.

As I approached retirement, I started to look for opportunities to become more involved in the community. Shortly before I retired in 2005, a friend of mine who lives in West L.A. explained how the League of Women Voters researches important issues in order to come up with its positions, and suggested that the League might be a good fit for someone with my analytical skills. I was intrigued but didn't follow up on her suggestion.

Several months later, I met Irma Cohen, Membership Chair of LWVBC, in an Omnifore study/discussion group. Irma invited me to a "chocolate party" at her home to explain more about the League. How could I resist *that* invitation? I discovered that the League was embarking on an Immigration study, and, coincidentally, I had just done research on the same issue for another study/discussion group. I joined the League and the local chapter's Immigration Study Group, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Why did you join the League? We want to hear from you. Send your story (short or long) to editor@beachvoter.org.

THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON THIS MONTH!

Be sure to mark these "out-of-town" events on your calendar. See enclosed flyers for details.

Sunshine Week celebration: "Get the Facts" Panel and "Get into the Act" Fair sponsored by LWV Torrance. Friday, March 21, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Torrance City Hall West Annex.

LWV/LAC Convention: L.A. County Chief Executive Officer William T. Fujioka will speak on "The Role of a Stronger CEO." You heard him at the Kickoff Breakfast when he had just taken office. Find out what he's learned since then. Saturday, March 29, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM in Alhambra—we'll car pool.



Leadership Council 2008

Invest a weekend, a day, or just a few hours in being the best leader you can be!

Sacramento, CA
Saturday May 17 - Sunday May 18.
Tour and Reception Friday May 16.

More details at www.lwvc.org.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE LEAGUE:

All citizens of voting age are welcome to join. Associate membership is open to young people and non-citizens. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your 2007/08 annual membership fee of \$50 (which is not tax deductible -- however, donations to the LWV Beach Cities Education Fund are tax deductible).

For more information, contact Irma Cohen at irma@beachvoter.org or (310) 939-0946. Or just send your check (payable to the League of Women Voters--Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Interests _____

March 12 Wednesday	6:00 PM– 8:00 PM	Candidates Forum for El Segundo City Council and City Clerk. Co-sponsored by LWVBC & El Segundo Chamber of Commerce. Election April 8.	Hacienda Hotel 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd. El Segundo
March 13 Thursday	6 PM supper 7 PM pro- gram	Tri-League Annual Lasagna Supper , featuring Robert Stern, President, Center for Governmental Studies, on “The Initiative Process: Is This Any Way to Run a Government?” Reserve for supper by March 7 with check for \$10 to Peggy Bartlett.	Katy Geissert Public Library Torrance Civic Center 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance
March 21 Friday	7:00 PM– 9:00 PM	Celebrate Sunshine Week. Government Access is for Everyone. “Get the Facts” Panel and “Get Into the Act” Fair sponsored by LWV-Torrance. See enclosed flyer.	Torrance City Hall West Annex 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance
March 29 Saturday	9:30 AM– 2:00 PM	LWV-L.A. County 46th Annual Convention SPEAKER: William T. Fujioka TOPIC: The Role of a Stronger CEO. See enclosed flyer.	Almanson Court 700 Almanson Street Alhambra 91801
March 24 Monday	7:00 PM– 9:30 PM	Board Meeting. 7 PM-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Jan Nathanson
April 7 Monday	7:00 PM– 8:45 PM	Symposium on Education in the South Bay: Breakthroughs and Challenges. See enclosed flyer.	Redondo Beach Main Library 2nd Floor Meeting Room 303 N. Pacific Coast Hwy, R.B.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.



701 13th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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