



# THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities  
310 / 793-0569 [www.beachvoter.org](http://www.beachvoter.org)  
serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach

TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
BEACH CITIES - PALOS VERDES - TORRANCE

## ANNUAL KICKOFF BREAKFAST BUFFET

MEET THE NEWLY APPOINTED

Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer

**WILLIAM T. FUJIOKA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

**MARIE CALLENDER'S**

21211 Hawthorne Blvd. (off Torrance Blvd.)

Torrance, CA 90503 310/540-9696



\*\*\*\*\*

Make check payable to: Tri-League (Deadline – Sept. 7, 2007)

Send to Peggy Bartlett (310) 545-1087

701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 per person - Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ League \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* EARLY RESERVATIONS ADVISED \*\***

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.*

<b><i>The Beach Voter</i></b>	
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.

**WHAT'S NEW THIS FALL?**

- A new place for our kick-off breakfast. Marie Callender's, 21211 Hawthorne Blvd. (off Torrance Blvd.), Torrance. Saturday, September 15. William T. Fujioka, the new Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County, will be our speaker -- see page 1 for details.
- A new day and place for evening meetings. Second Tuesday, David K. Hayward Community Center, 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane). There's plenty of parking and no pressure to hurry out of the room at the end of the presentations, plus we hope the new Redondo Beach location will be convenient for a wider geographic swath of our membership. Let us know what you think after the October 9th consensus meeting on Immigration.
- New LWVBC Board. Familiar names, some new assignments. See below.

**OLD HOMETOWN FAIR'S COMING OCT. 6 & 7.**

The Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair has always been the Beach Cities League's biggest fundraiser, whether we baked brownies, as in the past, or retailed cupcakes from Becker's Bakery as we did last year and will do again this fall. Please get your calendars out and decide when you can help in the food booth and/or the LWVBC information table in the Free Speech area.

<u>League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities</u> <u>Board of Directors for 2007-2008</u>	
Administrative Committee	
President of Record	Doris Rosenberg, Susan Grebe Peggy Bartlett
1st Vice Pres. - Program	Jan Nathanson
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3rd Vice Pres. - Membership	Irma Cohen
Secretary	Mignon Thiem-Murphy
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Natural Resources	Harriet Chase
Program Co-chair	Maggie Wilkinson
Publications	June Eicker
Education	Jeanne Leuschner
Action	Margaret Thelen
Voter Editor	Joan Arias
Portfolio to be determined	Henrietta Mosley Mary Lou Brenneman

## SMART VOTER PLUG AND PLEA

Ask someone to name the League of Women Voters' most valuable contribution to the political landscape of the past few years and they'll undoubtedly mention Smart Voter ([www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)). This wonderful tool developed by the League of Women Voters of California, which allows voters to find non-partisan information on state and local elections as well as their own sample ballot and polling place, has brought new prestige and visibility to our organization.

But the comprehensiveness of the information posted on local candidates and local ballot issues depends on the efforts of League members like you and me. Our county-wide coordinator, Frances Talbott-White, does a spectacular job as webmaster, but she needs help from us in contacting local candidates, screening their postings for inappropriate information, posting information about local candidate forums and articles in local papers, and reminding city clerks and community organizations to post their links to Smart Voter.

### WE HAVE SIX CITIES IN THIS LEAGUE -- CAN YOU HELP WITH YOURS?

It's a great opportunity to get to know your local leaders. It doesn't involve sitting through meetings. It may sound technical, but it's not; if you have a computer with internet access and a telephone you can do it. You'll have support at your fingertips from Wendy Phillips, our current Smart Voter coordinator, and from Frances Talbott-White. You'll have the satisfaction of performing an important public service from your own home !!

**SOUND INTRIGUING?** For more information call Wendy Phillips (310) 545-9343 or e-mail her - [wendyrose@adelphia.net](mailto:wendyrose@adelphia.net).

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## REMEMBERING VALMA EVANS

The Beach Cities League of Women Voters lost an important thread in its fabric in late July with the passing of Valma Evans. Valma's involvement with the League dated back to at least the early 1970s, when her lovely home on Tenth St. became the venue for the evening unit meetings of the LWV of Manhattan Beach, a predecessor of LWV-Beach Cities. She was an exceptionally gracious hostess. Much later, when we moved our meetings to the Manhattan Beach Library, she still provided refreshments and positioned herself near the door ready to jump up, with her characteristic energy, to greet late arrivals.

Valma was the person we could always call on to make telephone contacts, in the days before e-mail, to bring members out for meetings, get them baking brownies for the Old Hometown Fair booth, or just check on them if they hadn't been seen for a while. I owe her a personal debt for keeping me in the League's embrace during the twenty-odd years I was commuting to my career in downtown L.A. with little time to spare at this end. Time and again she won me over, with a call or in a chance encounter at the grocery, telling me of something coming up she was sure would interest me or just giving assurance that I was missed. She always made me feel valued; I'm sure she made many others feel the same.

Although Valma had been in poor health for about a year, her death took us by surprise. We will miss her. May her memory keep us mindful of how important the personal touch is to everything we do.

Henrietta Mosley, Voter Editor

# CAMPAIGNING FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IN CALIFORNIA

There was no summer break in efforts to bring single payer universal health care to California. On Thursday, July 12, OneCareNow's day-long event at Torrance Memorial Hospital Health Care Center was attended by about 75 people, including doctors, medical students and community members. The event featured a panel discussion in which Dr. Thomas LaGrelus spoke against single payer universal health care and presented a view of pay-as-you-go family health services augmented by catastrophic insurance coverage, while Dr. Sherif Emil spoke for universal health coverage, particularly single payer, and championed Senator Sheila Kuehl's SB 840. Emily Gold, Deputy for the Senator, provided particulars on how the proposed legislation would impact the health industry. A small health information fair followed the forum.

Later in the day a rally was held at the city's busiest intersection -- Torrance and Hawthorne Boulevards. Approximately 50 people carried signs and balloons while chanting or singing to the music of local musician and health care activist, John Flick, who has penned a universal health care lyric to the tune of *Button Up Your Overcoat*. Among the many local groups participating were members of the LWV Torrance, Beach Cities and Palos Verdes.

On Saturday, August 11 the Los Angeles OneCareNow rally featured celebrities, policymakers, and a large gathering of participants. The pictures below tell the story.



## Los Angeles OneCareNow Rally

August 11, 2007



State Attorney General John Garamendi, former California Insurance Commissioner, spoke passionately for single payer health insurance.



Lily Tomlin entertained the crowd with spoofs on insurance company treatment of insureds.



LWVC President Janis Hirohama, who spoke on behalf of the League, and Social Policy Director Julie Rajan enjoyed the success of the day.

George Savage, co-chair, started off the rally with a hearty welcome.



Senator Sheila Kuehl was applauded loudly.

Photos by Barbara Barker, LWV Torrance.

## COMING TO CONSENSUS ON IMMIGRATION

At a well attended, lively meeting in April on our national immigration study, we heard an introduction covering many aspects of this timely topic and members participated in stimulating discussions. At our meetings on Tuesday, October 9 and Tuesday, November 13, we will continue our discussions and reach consensus. *The location for both meetings will be the David K. Hayward Community Center, 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane) in Redondo Beach.*

In preparation for our consensus discussions, please read your February and June National Voters. Additional information is available on the LWVUS website [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

June Eicker, Immigration Study Chair

## COMING TO AMERICA - COULD WE PASS THE CITIZENSHIP TEST?

At the Tri-League\* luncheon meeting on Friday, July 13, Lance Widman, Professor of Political Science at El Camino College and long-time South Bay political presence, put our governmental and constitutional knowledge to a test as he reviewed some of the key questions posed to would-be US citizens. He challenged us with questions on the Bill of Rights - called the "Bill of Limits" by Dr. Widman, since its provisions operate as limits on governmental power. He also quizzed us on such fine points of "Civics" as whether we are a democracy or a republic. Of the 27 attendees, only one -- our own June Eicker -- had actually taken (and passed of course!) the test.

Did we all pass with flying colors? Who knows. But we had fun and learned a lot about our country and its Constitution at the same time!

Joan Arias, Action Chair

\*The Tri-League of Women Voters is an informal coalition among LWV organizations serving the Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula and Torrance.

## MISSED THE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

We have a DVD of the speeches and panel discussions at the excellent conference on Judicial Independence that was held last January at Loyola Law School. The DVD can be viewed either at Doris Rosenberg's house, date to be determined, or by League members who may want to borrow the DVD for viewing at home. Contact Jan Nathanson at 310-643-6247 or by e-mail at [rinathanson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rinathanson@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

### **Our New Members:**

We welcome new member Joan Stein Jenkins of Redondo Beach, who signed up at one of our health care events this summer. We also welcome William De Fortier, a lifetime League of Women Voters member who recently moved to our area. We look forward to getting acquainted with both of you.

Irma Cohen, Membership Chair

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## 87 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR POLITICAL EQUALITY

### *League of Women Voters Marks Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment*

This August 26 marked the 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting age population, according to the League of Women Voters of California, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

"This anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in the past 87 years," said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

"This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 Presidential election is a woman.

"However, these achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change."

A few of the League's current projects include lobbying for support of single payer health care SB 840 (Kuehl), the voter education website [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) and the printed, multi-lingual Easy Voter Guides and companion website [www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) designed for new and busy voters.

"It is crucial that we continue to engage more citizens in the democratic process, on every level. Citizens volunteering, educating, lobbying; that's absolutely necessary to democracy, and we need to see more of it," said League of Women Voters of California President, Janis R. Hirohama.

"Today is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters of California will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all."

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Excerpts from "Women Leaders Move Into Power in State Capitals," by Robert Tanner, The Associated Press. From the June-July 2007 Voter of the LWV Whittier.

Female state lawmakers are moving into leadership roles in unprecedented numbers, overseeing their legislatures' daily business, shaping states' political agendas and, advocates say, laying the groundwork to get more women elected.

This year, 58 women lawmakers were chosen as legislative leaders - senate presidents, house speakers, presidents pro tem - a 20 percent gain over last year's 48 and more than double the female leaders in 2000, according to a count by the National Conference of State Legislatures. At just 17 percent of all state legislative leaders, that's still barely one out of six, and far from reflecting the general population; women make up slightly more than half of all Americans.

Still, the gains come at a pivotal moment for female politicians, with Hillary Rodham Clinton running for president and Nancy Pelosi the first female speaker of the U.S. House. . . .

Women legislative leaders numbered only four in the nearly all-male political world of the late 1970s. That figure rose in the 1990s to between 20 and 28 - still 8 percent or less of all legislative leaders. But after 2000, the numbers began to climb; to 30 in 2001; 42 in 2006, and now 58. . . . [Elsewhere Tanner states that women now make up 23.5 percent of state lawmakers.]

Women still have a long way to go to achieve parity.

They still make up only 16.3 percent of Congress overall. And Clinton's is the first high-profile female candidacy aiming for the top of the ticket since Geraldine Ferraro served as Walter Mondale's vice presidential running mate in 1984. The Democrats lost to President Reagan and George H. W. Bush.



# LWV/LAC

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

*An Inter-League Organization* — Beach Cities ■ Beverly Hills ■ Claremont Area ■ Downey and Southeast Area ■ East San Gabriel Valley  
Glendale-Burbank ■ Long Beach Area ■ Los Angeles ■ Palos Verdes Peninsula ■ Pasadena Area ■ Santa Monica ■ Torrance ■ Whittier

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 29, 2007  
9:30 AM – 1 PM

## TAX RESTAURANT

1911 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026



# "Candidates Forums 'R Us"

*A How-to and Practice Seminar for League Leaders*

### STARRING

Arline Ames, Bea Antenore, Mary Ellen Barnes, Pat Kromka, Dorothy Larson, Monica Marquez,  
Sharon Mullenix, Phyllis O'Connell, Margo Reeg, Frances Talbott-White, Georganne Thomsen, Kay White,

### AND YOU!

Each league should plan to bring several new people to train to be part of your own  
VOTER SERVICE TEAM.



Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC  
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Name**

**Deadline is September 19, 2007.**

Late fee is \$30.00 after Sept. 19th.

Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25.00 = Total Reservations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Luncheon # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Luncheon # \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon w/o NUTS or other allergens (name them) # \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Carpooling recommended — Valet Parking is \$2.50 per car.**

If you are interested in attending this training seminar, call Linda Mack (310) 545-4738 for more information.

### 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

Sept. 10 Monday	7:00 - 9:30 PM	Board Meeting. 7 PM-social. Meeting starts promptly at 7:15.	At home of Joan Arias.
Sept. 15 Saturday	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Tri-League Annual Kickoff Breakfast Buffet. An opportunity to hear from the newly appointed Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer, William T. Fujioka. Reservations by Sept. 7. See page 1.	Marie Callender's 21211 Hawthorne Blvd. (off Torrance Blvd.) Torrance, CA 90503
Sept. 29 Saturday	9:30 AM - 1:00 PM	"Candidates Forums 'R Us" - A How-to and Practice Seminar for League Leaders offered by the Los Angeles County Inter-League organization. Train to be part of the Voter Service team. See page 7.	Taix Restaurant 1911 W. Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026
Oct. 6 & 7 Sat. & Sun.	10:00 AM- 6:00 PM	OLD HOMETOWN FAIR at Live Oak Park in Manhattan Beach. To help with the food booth, call Peggy Bartlett, (310) 545-1087. To help with our booth in the Free Speech area, call Henrietta Mosley, (310) 379-4591.	Live Oak Park, Manhattan Beach See <a href="http://www.mbfair.org">www.mbfair.org</a> for general information and maps.
Oct. 9 Tuesday	7:00 PM- 9:00 PM	Membership Consensus Meeting: LWVUS Immigration Study.	David K. Hayward Community Ctr. 2000 Artesia Blvd. (at Green Lane) Redondo Beach, CA 90278



701 13th Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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servicing

El Segundo

Hawthorne

Hemosa Beach

Inglewood

Manhattan Beach

Redondo Beach