



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS®
OF THE BEACH CITIES

THE BEACH VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

Gearing Up For Fall

As fall approaches our League is once again gearing up to meet the challenges of voter education and citizen involvement. On a National level we are focusing on climate change and health care legislation. The league has positions supporting each of these issues and is vigorously supporting the current proposed legislation in these two areas. On a State Level we are looking at our budget process, improving our governance as well as keeping an eye on the redistricting process. On the County level they are working to create a study on the jail system. On our local level we will be working to put together a program in 2010 which will show how our six cities are each dealing with the budget cuts to their municipalities. In the coming months we are planning general meetings centered around the above topics. If you see a topic you are interested in working on please contact our program chair Jan Nathanson at Jan@beachvoter.org or phone 310 643-6247. We welcome you to join us in active participation whether you have been a member for years or are new to the League. The rewards of working on programming are many, educations of self and others, getting to know others who share your commitment to better government and having some rousing good times spending time with your fellow Leaguers.

Our first program of the year will be our Kick-off Breakfast. Asemblyman Ted Lieu will be our speaker, he has addressed us in the past and was much appreciated for his knowledge and candor. Hope to see you there (see flyer enclosed).

Susan Grebe, Co-President

Popovers in Pasadena

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES CO - LEAGUE DAY

Joan Arias Reporting

On Saturday, July 25, nearly 100 Leaguers met at the Women's City Club in Pasadena for the annual "Popovers" day. After LWVLAC President Nancy Mahr's brief welcome and recognition (including our own Janis Hirohama), the group met in workshops: Presidents' Workshop, Education, Redistricting and Water and Climate Change workshops.

Presidents' workshop – Nancy Mahr led the Presidents' workshop and informed us that the LA County Board would assume the study committee for the Jail Study voted in at the 2008 County Convention. She highlighted the importance of our League non-partisan policy. Presidents from other Leagues talked about their success with interns from local colleges and we all agreed that it was difficult to find members willing to serve as president!

Education – Joanne Leavitt, LWVC Education, led the workshop, introducing the speakers: Barbara Inatsugu, LWVC Program Director for Education spoke about a 3-year study made possible by a grant from the Hewlett foundation. Members worked with the state and communities to examine current thinking in education, educational finance, and community involvement. Funding has completed. Carrie Miller and Jenny Serrano discussed the Educational Coordinating Council created to improve the educational achievement of Los Angeles County's 60,000 foster and probation youth whose school performance is problematic. The council changed the interpretation of a federal law to allow electronic sharing of education information among all parties who need the data. Pilot programs in Montebello and Pomona were successful in raising grade point averages, documenting credits from other districts, and linking the youth to community services. Lisa Reilly from the L.A. County Ed. Office talked about AVID, a middle and high-school program to encourage students with 2.0-3.5 GPAs and

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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

Co-Presidents:
 Barbara Arlow
 Susan Grebe

Editor
 Susan Grebe

Production
 Mignon Thiem-Murphy
 Peggy Bartlett

Circulation
 Ann Martin

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.

Website Links, Doris Rosenberg:

- LWV United States www.lwv.org
- LWV California www.lwvc.org
- LWV LA County www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org
- LWV Beach Cities www.beachvoter.org
- Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org
- Secretary of State www.ss.ca.gov
- California Senate www.senate.ca.gov

For **membership**. Send check in the amount of \$55.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters –Beach Cities) to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Interest _____

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - LEAGUE DAY

high-school program to encourage students with 2.0-3.5 GPAs and college potential to develop their skills. AVID is a regularly scheduled elective with three components: academic instruction, tutorial support, and motivational activities, including writing. More than 95% of AVID graduates enroll in 4-year colleges.

Water and Climate Change - This workshop started with basic education to help us understand the frightening effects of the rising temperature. We continued with a focus on water conservation, a key area of concern because of California's vulnerability, year-round forest fire seasons and bark beetle devastation of the forest, as well as the devastation of natural resources caused by human overpopulation. The speakers promoted Executive Order S-3-05 – Greenhouse reduction; AB32-Global Warming Solutions Act which set the reduction of Greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020, and H.R. 2454 – the American Clean Energy and Security Act 2009, passed by the House on June 26, 2009. We received several handouts about water resources and usage. On a final note, a Thomas Friedman quote resonated with the group: "If we lose this opportunity, it's going to be a different world for your kids and mine."

Redistricting - Chris Carson gave the group an excellent history of the redistricting initiative and gave us guidance on what we should do NOW, including: Encouraging League members and community leaders to apply for membership on the committee that will select the commission, Conduct

community outreach to emphasize the importance of the census and to explain the redistricting process and organize members and community leaders to observe commission hearings and meetings (either in person or on line on the "California Channel") and consider testifying. She gave us the excellent news that the Collaborative (the group with which League is working on the redistricting initiative) had received a grant to produce good educational materials on redistricting to help us in our efforts. So watch the LWV California web site for more information. (<http://www.ca.lwv.org/>)!

In later comments on a recent national redistricting meeting, LWV-CA President Janis Hirohama noted the country is watching California to see if we can be successful!

Speaker - Our post-luncheon speaker the Honorable Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff, highlighted the importance of the League of Women Voters in promoting women in key positions and described the challenges he faces as leader of the largest county jail system in the United States with 20,000 prisoners. He emphasized education as a way to help prisoners find self esteem and learn to move from crime. Baca described his law-enforcement mission as one that purports to "save society from itself" and "improve broken lives." Mr. Baca's heartfelt presentation gave us good perspective on the jail situation in Los Angeles County and food for thought about the enormous task of managing the system.

CLIMATE CHANGE

By Maggie Wilkinson

At the national LWV level, climate change is seen as one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and the economy of our nation. LWVUS believes that now is the time to act as the Senate deals with the climate change legislation passed by the House of Representatives and prior to the international meeting scheduled to take place in early December in Copenhagen. Information regarding League action alerts and more background information on this issue are available on the internet. Please see www.LWVC.org.

Here in our local league area, LWV Beach Cities has been invited to join the South Bay 350 Climate Action Alliance, an organization whose purpose is to be part of an international day of climate action event planned for Saturday Oct. 24th. The international group is calling for a climate treaty that will set a goal of lowering carbon dioxide levels below 350 parts per million.

The South Bay Climate Action Alliance group is made up of approximately fourteen community groups (environmental, church, civic, etc.) joined together for the purpose of raising public awareness about the issue of climate change. The South Bay group is proposing to have an activity along the beach between Hermosa and Manhattan Beach Piers on the afternoon of Sat. Oct 24. The goal is to make people aware of the need for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and to form a human chain on the beach between the two piers representing where the sea level is expected to rise as a result of climate change.

This is a good opportunity for our members To learn more about the climate change issue and participate if possible in the human chain along the beach. Families are welcome and the group plans to have activities and information available for children. For more information about the activities of this group see <http://sb350.pbworks.com> and for Information on the world events that are planned, log into www.350.org.

Our regular monthly membership meeting for October (scheduled for the 27th) will also be on Climate Change, this will be an chance for our members to learn more about what local governments are doing and what individuals can do.

Chocolate Party

Thursday, September 24th 7PM

It time for another of Irma Cohen's famous events. This is where new and prospective members come to learn about League. Irma does not just give you one or two chocolate morsels but whole array of delicious choices from dipped strawberries to yummy sodas or sundaes. So let us know of anyone you think might be interested in learning about League and call Irma at 310 939-0946.



350 CLIMATE ACTION

Notes from Wendy Phillips

As a state, we emit about 450 million metric tons of greenhouse gases,¹ If measured on an international scale, California would rank 18th in GHG emissions (in between Iran and South Africa).

Climate change was our topic at our membership meeting at the beginning of the year – and in addition to learning about where greenhouse gases come from, we were privileged to hear from several local environmental leaders who are combating these trends. Although the US never ratified our participation in the Kyoto Protocol, 1,000 ‘cool cities’ in the US have entered into a ‘Mayors Climate Protection Agreement,’ kicking off local efforts to take on the challenge of reversing GHG emissions. Three of our beach cities – Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach – have signed on! And the League is doing its part, advocating on the national level against coal-fired plants and in support of tax incentives for clean energy, and providing educational materials for members (www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=The State of Climate Change).

And here’s the latest – The South Bay 350 Climate Action Group is a new alliance of local community groups. Our goal is to come together, on the afternoon of Saturday, October 24th, to raise awareness of climate change. We’ll be a link in international activities that day – so save the date, and join us along the Strand. Check next month’s newsletter and our Web site – www.beachvoter.org for more information plans for South Bay 350 Climate Action!

350 parts per million is what many scientists, climate experts, and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO2 in our atmosphere.

Accelerating arctic warming and other early climate impacts have led scientists to conclude that we are already above the safe zone at our current 390ppm, and that unless we are able to rapidly return to 350 ppm this century, we risk reaching tipping points and irreversible impacts such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and major methane releases from increased permafrost melt.

There are three numbers you need to really understand global warming, 275, 390, and 350.

For all of human history until about 200 years ago, our atmosphere contained 275 parts per million of carbon dioxide. Parts per million is simply a way of measuring the concentration of different gases, and means the ratio of the number of carbon dioxide molecules per million other molecules in the atmosphere. 275 ppm CO2 is a useful amount—without some CO2 and other greenhouse gases that trap heat in our atmosphere, our planet would be too cold for humans to inhabit.

So we need some carbon in the atmosphere, but the question is how much? Beginning in the 18th century, humans began to burn coal and gas and oil to produce energy and goods. The amount of carbon in the atmosphere began to rise, at first slowly and now more quickly. Many of the activities we do every day like turning the lights on, cooking food, or heating or cooling our homes rely on energy sources like coal and oil that emit carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. We're taking millions of years worth of carbon, stored beneath the earth as fossil fuels, and releasing it into the atmosphere. By now—and this is the second number—the planet has 390 parts per million CO2 – and this number is rising by about 2 parts per million every year.

[1] Estimate for the year 2000, from the World Resources Institute, Climate Analysis Indicators Tool, 20

Calendar	
Tuesday, September 8th 7 PM	Board Meeting , Home of Michelle Murphy, 310-545- 6751
Saturday, September 19th, 9 AM	Tri-league Kickoff Breakfast with Assemblyman Ted Lieu – Marie Calendars Call Peggy Bartlett 310-545-1087 for reservations
Thursday, September 24th 7 PM	New & prospective member orientation, Home of Irma Cohen, 310 939-0946

Welcome to new member Sandra Smith of Hermosa Beach



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