



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

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

The California Leadership Council 2010

By Janelle Freeman



Council took place May 15 & 16 in Sacramento with the theme: **The Next 90**. This year's Council had a 22% higher attendance than the Council two years ago, 62 of 67 California Leagues were represented.

Along with the reports from the board and staff, the main order of business was the 2010-2011 budget. The main changes in the budget are on the income side. There is a \$1 increase in PMP. Local Leagues will now be charged a 3% administrative charge on liability insurance and LWVCEF held by the state

league. Also, there is a predicted sizeable increase over the last two years in contributions. This number was justified by improvement in the economy, a full-time person fundraiser, and that the 2007-2008 year had that level of contributions. A much touted point was that local Leagues can now use Education Funds for up to 25% of the annual PMP to the state. After a late night budget Q&A attended by a dozen delegates, the budget passed without further floor discussion. The budget committee, lead by Pam Pecarich, heaved a huge sigh of relief.

Another big topic at Council was the overhaul of the state League's on-line presence, including the introduction of CAVotes.org, a site dedicated to voter education. Voter education can be found on both CAVotes.org and ca.lwv.org, but advocacy will only be on ca.lwc.org. Both sites will have on-line fundraising, because people are more generous when they donate on-line.

Quality is being emphasized for the public websites. Anyone wishing to contribute must attend one of the free "Writing for the Web" webinar to be held 5/26 & 6/4 at 10 a.m. Registration for the webinars is easy to find on CAVotes.org by going to events and clicking on the webinar entry on the calendar. The webinar content will be stored on the website for later viewing.

While the public sites will be controlled to preserve quality, it is hoped the new members-only site will be a place for free-wheeling collaboration. Also the state League would like members to register their email addresses on the LWVC website and sign-up for the LWV CA news. If you register your email address, you can select the no email option. Your email address will not be given to other organizations.

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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

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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.

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 _____

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Homeless in the South Bay

Jan Nathanson was our able moderator for this event which took place last April 26th at the Redondo Beach Library. A panel of experts and volunteers presented information on services for the homeless in our community. Leading off the panel was **Lauren Nakano** of the *Beach Cities Health District*, director of the *South Bay Coalition for the Homeless*. This coalition is two years old and still in the development stages. She expressed a commitment to alleviating homelessness in our community while ensuring human dignity and compassion. Medical and mental health issues are challenges that face the homeless. Housing is practically non-existent for single men who make up 60 % of our homeless population. 2009 Homeless Count: 4,000 homeless in the South Bay area not including Long Beach. The *SB Coalition for the Homeless* is planning a mega provider fair in Lawndale on Manhattan Beach Blvd and Prairie on June 30th of this year.

Shari Weaver of *Harbor Interfaith Services* states they have a holistic approach to serving the homeless. The biggest problem is lack of affordable housing, there are 48,000 homeless in Los Angeles: 11% Families with Children; 89% is singles. There are a variety of programs that can provide a range of help, such as hotel vouchers, groceries, rental fees and a 90 day family shelter program. This is available to families with a child or children under the age of 18. There are also resources for higher education. Monthly lifestyle seminars, child care, business clothing, interview techniques are also classes that are available. Also there is a low cost childcare program as well as an after school care for children. Lack of affordable housing is the number one problem. The goal is jobs that pay a living wage.

Mary Dufresne of *Shared Bread* is a registered nurse and lifelong volunteer. She is also a member of the *South Bay Coalition of the Homeless* and works with the *Area Meals Program*. On any given Wednesday evening you can walk into the Redondo Beach First United Methodist Church and with no questions asked be served a full course, soup to nuts, meal. Mary reports a disturbing trend of seeing more women, families, and newly homeless. This program is supported by city grants, as well as the corporate sponsorships of Starbucks, Fresh and Easy, and Torrance Food Market. This is just one of the area locations where one can receive a free nourishing meal. There are free dinners being served every night of the week throughout the South Bay. Also available are food banks, clothing programs and sack lunches.

Michelle May is a counselor who also works with *Shared Bread*. She helped us understand a little more about who the homeless are, and the challenges that they face. The greatest common denominator is they do not have a support system in place. Many of the newly homeless are there due to the 12% unemployment rate plaguing the area. Their biggest need is that of shelter, there are no homeless shelters in the South Bay. There are some programs for abused women and children, but these are limited, and just being homeless does not qualify one services.

Jan Vogel is Executive Director of *South Bay Workforce*. While he is not directly involved with the homeless, his services are open people on public assistance as long as they are trying to get a job. There are several one stop centers in the area; Inglewood, Gardena, Carson and Redondo Beach are locations where one can use computers to search for work as well as ask for rental assistance while looking for work.

Dr. Robert Dutile of *Exodus Recovery* runs a program to support the homeless with mental health challenges. Most of his patients also have substance abuse problems as well. They are available around the clock for their homeless patients and this program is supported by Prop 63 monies.

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Environmental News

By Maggie Wilkinson

On May 19, LWVUS sent out a press release and an action alert regarding the League's opposition to Senator Lisa Murkowski's resolution of disapproval (S.J. Res. 26) which would block action by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act to rein in the pollution that is causing climate change and threatening communities hereand around the world. The Senate is expected to consider the Murkowski resolution soon.

Mary G. Wilson, president of the national League, is quoted as saying, "At this critical time, when our nation needs new energy and environmental policies, Senator Murkowski's resolution of disapproval will block action to stop pollution, reinforce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, and undermine the move to a new, clean-energy, clean-jobs economy."

For the Action Alert, we are asked to contact our senators—Boxer and Feinstein—and tell them to oppose the Murkowski Amendment (S.J. Res. 26). We are also asked to alert other concerned citizens—our friends, family, neighbors and co-workers—and encourage them to contact their senators regarding this attack on the *Clean Air Act*.

On May 3rd, the LWVUS and over 70 other organizations signed a letter that was sent to the US Senate urging them "...to reconsider any plans to include expanded offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling in any legislation." The letter also stated that, "In light of the events surrounding the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico our organizations urge you to oppose efforts to expand offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling off of our coasts. Accidents happen, and they will continue to happen in the future. Any expanded offshore exploration and drilling should be off the table. Instead, legislation should focus on emphasizing development of carbon-free energy technologies, including offshore and land-based wind power and solar power, consistent with the protection of wildlife and ecosystems..."

On May 12th, Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman introduced the Senate climate and energy bill called the American Power Act. The following day LWVUS signed onto a letter with 24 other organizations which reported they were pleased to see the release of the bill and that the group "...especially appreciated that programs for international adaptation and reduced emissions from deforestation were included." In addition, they reported being deeply disappointed by the lack of adequate investment in international action to tackle climate change and the absence of any program for clean energy promotion. In summary: Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution and cooperation, and these international investments are vital to reaching a global climate agreement. Congressional legislation should reflect these realities and include resources to achieve these goals.

Peggy Bartlett reports two more donations to our Fund Raiser, Thank You to **Carole Wagner Vallianos** and **Dixie Roy**. For those of you who have yet to contribute there is good news, it is not to late to get your contribution to Peggy Bartlett at 701 13th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA.

The only contentious issue at Council did not get voiced until well into the second day. A question was asked and then some pointed advice to the board was given on the Easy Voter Guide (EVG) "fiasco." There was general concern that errors in EVG, created in part by a decision to go to press before a final candidate list was made available, will undermine League credibility.

Although the request by the Secretary of State to have its office removed as a listed sponsor from the EVG cover has been associated with the errors, the request for removal predated the printing. The listing of the Secretary of State on the cover was itself another error.

There was lots of good information on LWV CA's activities in the other reports. An area of emphasis in the President's report, given by our own Janis Hirohama, was the need to make sure redistricting activities are adequately funded, despite the state budget woes, and the need to fight the well-funded threat to reverse Prop 11. More help is needed for the Redistricting Observer Corp. There will be a webinar to train Observer Corp and Media Watch on June 17th at 7 p.m. Go to the CAVotes.org website to register. The Redistricting meetings will be streamed live on www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

Membership Director, Bonnie Hamlin, talked about the continuation of the Management Training Advisors (MTA) program for regional training. Additional MTAs are needed. Currently there are 19; 34 are desired. The Membership Growth is Key (MGIK) program continues to grow. A workshop was held to talk about membership recruitment techniques. Government Director, Helen Hutchison, emphasized our co-sponsorship of Prop 15 and our opposition to the PG&E-funded Prop 16. There was a workshop "Hot Topics" given by staffer and lobbyist Trudy Schafer and Helen H. that discussed many of the upcoming propositions.

The banquet speaker, Zaida Arguedas, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Global Democracy Programs at LWVUS, gave a moving talk about her casting a vote for the first woman President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla, in January. The Sunday lunch panel gave some interesting, and generally pessimistic perspectives on the future of the California government reform movement.

Overall the Council was very educational, thought provoking, and inspiring of further involvement. The networking with other representatives was just another highlight.

The next California Convention will be held in Ventura 5/13-15/2011.

Continued from page 3 Homeless in the South Bay

Susan Partovi, M.D. is Medical Director of Homeless Health Care in the LA Skid Row Health Center. She also works with the homeless at Harbor UCLA. Of the homeless she services 75% are disabled. Their maladies include, among other conditions, mental health issues, TB, HIV, Aids and skin disorders. Only 6% receive disability benefits from the State. The average life expectancy for these patients is 47.

After the panel presentations there were questions and comments from the audience. One volunteer pointed out that not only is there no homeless shelter in the South Bay, there is no place where a homeless person can take a hot shower or store their few belongings. We left feeling that in many ways we are failing to meet the basic needs of this population.

With great thanks to Harriet Chase and her committee.....reporters Fatima Malik, Madonna Newberg and S. Grebe

CALENDAR

June 8th	7 AM	California Primary	At Your Local Precinct
Tuesday	8 PM		
June 24th	6 PM	Old/New Board Meeting	Home of Susan Grebe
Thursday			
July 31st	9:30 AM		Women's Club of
Saturday	2:30 PM	Popovers in Pasadena	Pasadena
Welcome to new members		Sunny Moss	Torrance
		Diane Wallace	Manhattan Beach
		Tiny Phillips	Manhattan Beach

Remember to vote on June 8th ~ California State Primary



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