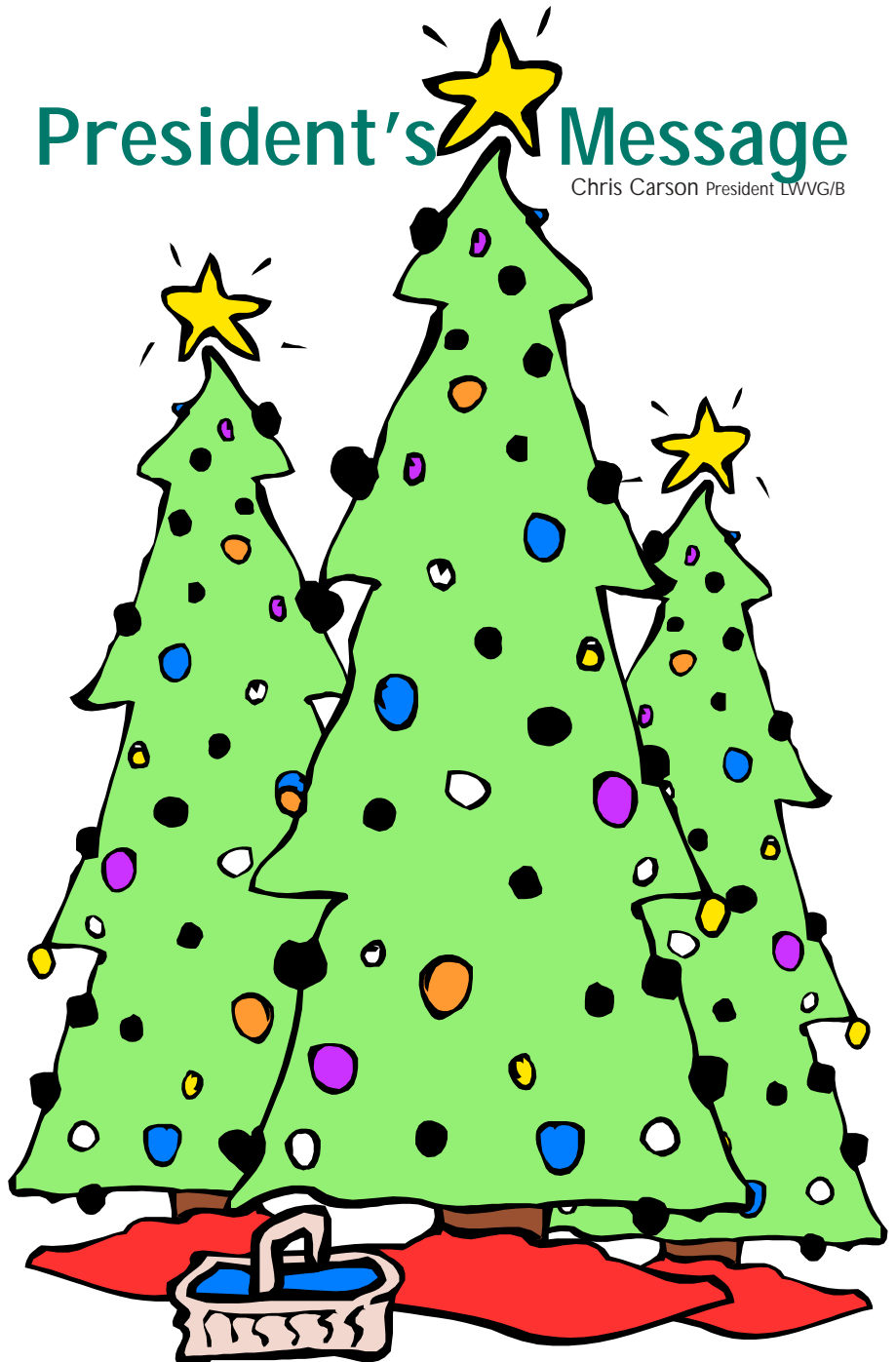


December 2003 Calendar

- Wednesday
December 3
Board Meeting
Home of Anna Rundle
- Thursday
December 11, 7:00 pm
WASSAIL BOWL
Home of Mary Lou Howard
- Wednesday
January 7
BOARD MEETING
- Wednesday
January 14, 7:30 pm
**WINE, CHEESE AND GOVERNMENT
POLICY-PROGRAM PLANNING**
Home of Chris Carson
- Thursday
January 29, 7:30 pm
CHARTER REFORM IN GLENDALE
Guest Speaker
Eileen Givens
- Saturday
January 31
10:00 am to noon
**SPEAKER TRAINING FOR
MARCH BALLOT MEASURES**
Hollenbeck House
- Saturday
March 20
9:30-11:30 am
**HEALTHCARE FORUM:
WHO WILL PAY**
Atherton Baptist Home in Alhambra
In cooperation with the Pasadena
Area League
- Saturday
March 27
LWVLAC ANNUAL CONVENTION
Tamayo's Restaurant
Commerce

President's Message

Chris Carson President LWG/B



Happy Holidays

*The League of Women Voters
Glendale/Burbank cordially invite you to a*

Wassail

Bowl

Thursday, December 11, 2003
7:00 in the evening

The home of Mary Lou Howard
1121 Church Court
Burbank, California

Welcome the holiday season with family
and friends at our traditional Wassail Bowl.
Please bring a favorite holiday dish to share.

Rsvp by December 5
Dorie Beaumont
(818) 842-0986



TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY PRIZES INCLUDE:

Gift baskets
Gift certificates

Even if you can't come to the Wassail Bowl you may still take part in this fundraiser for the Glendale/Burbank League by sending a check to Connie Wilson, 3013 North Keystone St., Burbank CA 91504. Suggested donations: 3 tickets for \$5.00 or 8 for \$10.00.

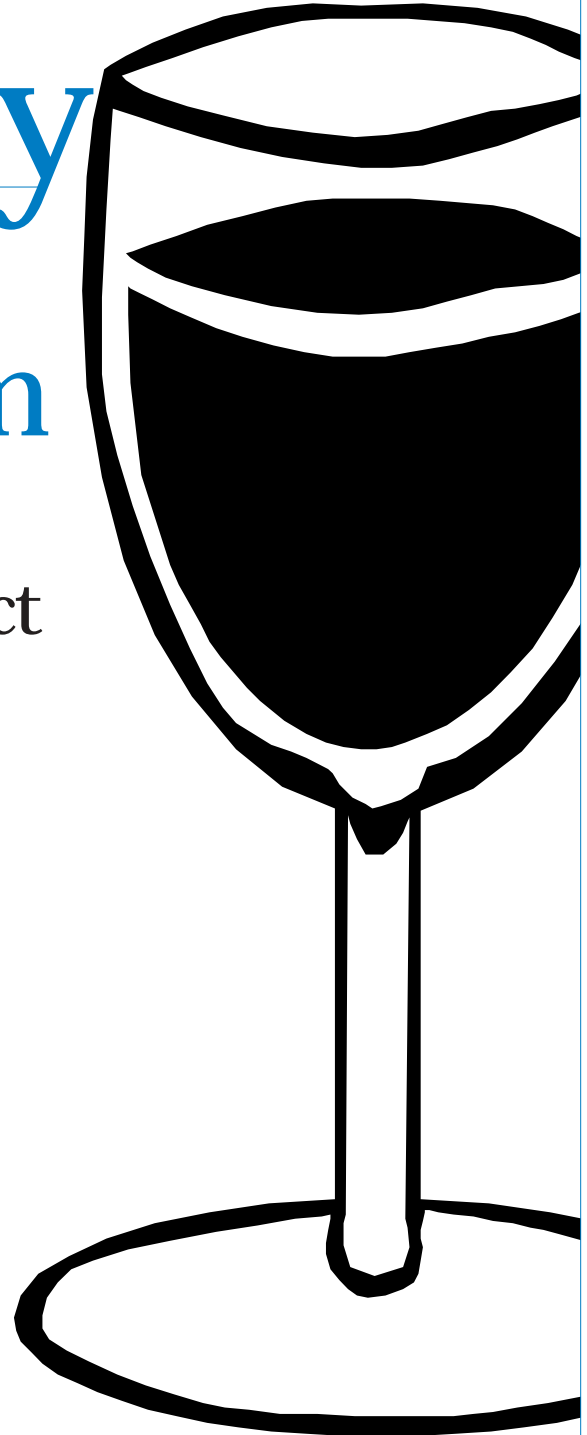
DIRECTIONS:

Glenoaks Boulevard to East Magnolia Boulevard
North on East Magnolia, up hill to Sunset Canyon Drive
Left on Sunset Canyon Drive, 1 block to Church Street
Right on Church Court

Wine, Cheese & Government Policy

Throw in a little
**Program
Planning**
and you have a perfect
League evening

Wednesday, January 14
at Chris Carson's
beautiful home
7:30 pm



FriendsOutside and the LWV

THE HORIZONS (like hips) keep broadening! If there is one thing you can say about the League of Women Voters, it is that it is always a learning experience. Recently an organization called **FriendsOutside** asked if the League would be interested in talking to their group. Their L.A. County organization was founded in 1972 by Martha Jane Dowds, member of the Pasadena League and wife of Superior Court Judge Norman R. Dowds, at the recommendation of Federal Judge William P. Gray. They provide services to individuals currently or formerly incarcerated and their families. In the Los Angeles area they have three community-based offices, in Long Beach, Pasadena, and Watts, and offices within county jails.

When they asked us to talk to them about voting—well, of course, that is what we do! But little did I know when I was asked to join Daphne Lake of the LWV Los Angeles County Board on this visit—of the blind alleys, and the “attitude” I would run into statewide trying to find out more about the process these folks go through. Even my umbilical cord—the internet—failed me.

Re-registering required

However, Daphne and I ventured forth to their Watts community room and met with Mary Weaver, the dynamic executive director of **FriendsOutside** in this area, and about 20 people who had gathered to celebrate the completion of parole of two men. We had the opportunity to talk with them about what they knew about their voting rights. Unfortunately, though the stories varied, it was apparent that those who even had the “pre-release class” were never told about their voting rights—or else were told that they would never be able to vote again! We proceeded to assure them that the California election laws do allow felons who have completed their sentence and any parole term to register (or re-register) and vote.

FYI, each April and September the California courts notify the appropriate county registrar of all those convicted of a felony. Los Angeles County then codes these names and removes them from the “approved” voting lists. Thus, each person must register (or re-register) when they are discharged from parole to regain their voting right. Our voting

rights and procedures discussion and Ink-a-Vote demonstration gave everyone a chance to see what they would encounter when voting in 2004.

A Little Background

Every state enacts its own laws regarding the voting procedures and rights including the disenfranchisement of prisoners. Only Maine and Vermont allow prison inmates to vote. Twenty-one states allow probationers to vote, and 17 allow those on parole to vote. Some states never allow a convicted felon to vote again, and a few have laws forcing a three or five-year wait after serving the sentence and receiving a discharge off parole. In Alabama, persons convicted of felony offenses are required to provide DNA samples as a condition of obtaining a pardon!

Election code amended

It was as recently as 1974 that the Supreme Court overturned a California court ruling to restore voting rights to ex-felons who had served their sentence and completed parole. Another case in 1978 appeared to have been implemented and the California Election Code was amended to restore these rights. United States Congress has had several amendments to the election laws proposed to make this a nationwide right, but it has always been denied. I understand that this subject was even discussed during the HAVA (Help America Vote Act) negotiations, but there is no mention of it therein.

Though I do not have a current California breakdown in statistics, according to Demos-USA, the total number of people thus disenfranchised in the U.S. in 2000 were :

Felons on parole	444,405
Felons in prison	1,222,378
Felons on probation	320,684
Ex-felons	1,609,710
For a total of	4,597,177



Overview of Draft California Water Plan

EVERY FIVE YEARS, the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) publishes an Update to the California Water Plan (CWP). Volume one of the next Update (also known as Bulletin 160-03) is to be published in public comment form by December 30, 2003. In preparation for this Update, 70 Advisory Committee (AC) members (drawn from water districts, environmental groups, urban water districts, cities, counties, business, agriculture, and environmental justice advocates) have been meeting for almost three years to develop and shape this Water Plan Update. LWVC members Polly Smith and Jack Sullivan have been part of the AC process over the past three years.

What follows is a brief overview of the draft plan, as it currently exists. The Plan will comprise a strategic plan for water for the state of California and will note that the state faces many challenges including uncertainties about the future. These uncertainties include problems associated with drinking water supplies that rely on contaminated groundwater and the impacts that global climate change will have on water stored in the Sierra snowpack.

For the 2003 Update, AC members persuaded DWR to use actual figures in the Plan from a recent dry and wet year, rather than changing these figures through a process called “normalizing” (AC members wondered what’s normal?); also to analyze in greater depth issues such as global warming, environmental justice, ecosystem restoration, the public trust doctrine, greater conservation and watershed management techniques. New in this Update will be the presentation of four scenarios for the future rather than one preferred or recommended solution that could occur by 2025. The plan will recognize uncertainties facing water management and emphasize the growing importance of regional solutions. AC members have largely reached consensus except for the knotty problem of future storage—such as building new on or off stream dams.

It has become clear to the AC and DWR that data on water resources in California are woefully

incomplete and the Update will likely call for more systematic gathering of data on precipitation, storage, aquifer capacity and status, consumption (of all types) and water transfers. The development of such a store of data will be required in the future in order for the state to do more effective water planning.

Population growth is one factor that is very important for the Water Plan process. Current projects indicate that California’s population will grow by 600,000 people per year and that there will be 17 million additional people living in California by 2030. Given that much of the water in the state is already appropriated, it will be necessary to push further policies which foster conservation and recycling of water. The Water Plan will address these issues and all sectors of the California economy—households, business, and agriculture—will be expected to do more with less water.

The 2003 Update will contain much information on regional water planning and on integrated resources planning in the various regions of the state. The Update will also discuss regional efforts aimed at conserving water and at using water more efficiently. The environment has needs for water—water for fish and for ecosystems—and the 2003 Update will discuss strategies to meet these needs as well.

The state of California also has responsibilities in the areas of public trust and environmental justice and the Update will discuss the status and the implications of these responsibilities.

Throughout the AC discussions on the Water Plan, the issue of overdrafted groundwater basins has been raised many times. The Update will address this issue and will include strategies for dealing with this problem. The Update will also note that much more data is needed in order for us to get a handle on this problem.

The 2003 Update will also present a guide to making investments in our water infrastructure. This guide will present strategies that range from high implementation confidence, to medium implementation confidence to low implementation .

mORE LWVUS news . . .

ADVOCACY

LWVUS advocacy efforts have met with considerable success in recent months—beginning with the **Title IX victory** and continuing with Senate approval for full federal funding for state implementation of the **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)**.

A **Clean Air Grassroots Advocacy Kit** is now available online to help Leagues learn how to protect the Clean Air Act. To get the kit, go to: http://www.lwv.org/elibrary/pubs/cleanair_actionkit.pdf A new “how-to” **lobbying brochure** is in the works, as well.

The League is one of the sponsors of the **March for Choice** in DC on April 25, 2004, and Leagues are encouraged to begin organizing to attend. Leagues are also encouraged to check the website to see the wealth of information on these and other issues.

The Board had an extensive conversation about the ongoing League discourse on Direct Recording Electronic voting machines and paper trails, reviewing once again the reasoning behind the official League statements that individual paper receipts are not essential, which is also the position taken by many other civic organizations and civil rights groups.

UPDATE

The Update on Presidential Selection task force submitted its proposed position to the Board of Directors, which accepted it for inclusion in concurrence materials in the January/February 2004 *National Voter*. This information will also be available online.

EDUCATION FUND

In recent months, LWVEF staff members have undertaken various efforts to provide more information on civil liberties to Leagues and the public at large. A civil liberties section has been added to the website and staff is seeking external funding to expand the efforts into more materials and assistance for Leagues.

LWVEF played a significant role in the Congress-

sional Conference on Civic Education: Representative Democracy in America, the first of five annual events hosted by the Joint Leadership of the United States Congress. Delegates of education, government, and civic organizations nationwide discussed ways to increase the emphasis on civic education.

Publications and Reports

Helping America Vote: A Guide to Implementing the New Federal Ballot Requirement was released in October to Leagues, election officials and other key affiliates. The report is available online at: http://www.lwv.org/join/elections/hava_resources.html

Also available through this online link is a report on the *Emerging Issues in Election Reform* conference, sponsored by LWVUS and the McCormick Tribune Foundation, which took place in 2002.

COMMUNICATIONS

Since the inaugural issue of the League’s LeagueVoice monthly e-newsletter, subscriptions (which are free) have consistently increased. The Board encourages each League to spread the word to friends, family and colleagues.

The focused effort on producing a more member-oriented *National Voter* has been successful. Beginning with the latest issue, all issues will be posted online in full, just as they appear in print.

CONVENTION 2004

The theme for the 2004 convention will be “Engaging the Nation 2004.” The goals for this convention are:

- Adoption of program budget;
- Adoption of bylaws;
- Election of officers and directors;
- Move towards shared commitment of fiscal sustainability; and
- Celebrate League achievements.

Senator Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will be a featured speaker.

Future Plans

We have promised to provide FriendsOutside with registration forms and materials so that they have materials on hand in their offices. Mary Weaver, Daphne and I look forward to maintaining our relationship. The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County as well as the Los Angeles League will be considering how we can be the most helpful to this organization on a long-term basis.

Jean Thomson
Voters Service Committee Member, LWV Los Angeles



**Welcome
New Members**

- Lena Bozoyan
- Michael Greaves
- Monica Marquez
- Alice Rigarian



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1150 N. BRAND BLVD.
GLENDALE CA 91202
(818) 246-1753

**CATHY SELLITTO
NOTARY PUBLIC**

Mobile Service
Business Hospitals Residence
(818) 502-0661

Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. All citizens of voting age are welcome.

YES! I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (please check one or more of the following)

- \$50.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$70.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- I am unable to join League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

Name/Names _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____


- I would like to receive my VOTER by email.
My email address is _____

Make check payable to League of Women Voters. Mail to Vera Naylor, 7714 Via Capri, Burbank CA 91504.

Gifts made payable to "LWV Education Fund" are tax deductible.

League Ranks #16 on Yahoo's! Buzz Index

DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3 (election week), the LWWUS website was ranked #16 alongside Brett Favre, Country Music Awards and Finding Nemo as one of the most searched websites of the week. The number of League searches through Yahoo! was up 1,063%. Two of our newest members, Michael Graves and Monica Marquez joined us through our local League website.



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Andrea Williams
Manager/Notary Public

1125 E. Broadway Glendale CA 91205 Broadway/Chevy Chase Drive tel: 818.242.4270 fax: 818.242.0525 Mon-Fri 8:30-6:30 Sat. 10-4 Sun. 12-4	249 N. Brand Blvd. Glendale CA 91203 Corner Brand/Calif tel: 818.244.4448 fax: 919.244.4795 Open Mon-Sat.
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7714 Via Capri
Burbank CA 91504
(818) 247-2407

League web sites:
LWV Glendale/Burbank
<http://www.gb.ca.lwwnet.org>

LWV California
<http://ca.LWV.org>

LWV United States
<http://www.LWV.org>

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Editor: Chris Carson
Production: Carole Dougherty
Circulation: Anna Rundle

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

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