

Voter^{LWV}

LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK
April 2011

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Great News!

We've just gotten some great news that will mean a lot for our League and its members. So sit back and read just what's happened and how it will impact all of us.

All Leagues around the country, except for League Education Funds, have always qualified to be exempt from tax under Code Section 501(c)(4) (and state equivalents). Under this particular subsection, a League is itself exempt from US or state income tax, but membership dues and contributions paid to the Leagues are not deductible by the members or donors on their own individual income tax returns.

However, League Education Funds have always qualified to be tax exempt under Code Section 501(c) (3) (and state equivalents). Under this subsection, an Education Fund is itself exempt from US or state income tax, but contributions paid to the Education Fund are deductible by donors on their own individual income tax returns provided that they itemize their deductions.

Back in 2009, our Board investigated the ground rules for Code Section 501(c) (3), and concluded that a League like ours should be able to qualify under that subsection without any impact on its day-to-day activities. So we applied to the Internal Revenue Service in October 2009 to be recognized as so qualifying. We had to wait six months before an IRS

reviewer was assigned to our application. And then we had an extended and very detailed review process with the reviewer, who seemed determined to deny our application without ever being able to explain why. But after we provided numerous letters and lengthy technical memoranda, the IRS conceded and agreed that our League did in fact qualify under Code Section 501(c) (3).

So what does all of this mean for us and for you our members? Effective as of October 23, 2009, and going forward, all dues and contributions paid to our League have been and will be tax deductible by our members and contributors who itemize deductions on their individual tax returns. This will be a real boon to many of our members. Additionally, there are instances where businesses charge lower rates to organizations qualifying under Section 501(c) (3)—PayPal is a case in point—so the League itself may achieve some savings.

So when you receive your membership renewal notice, or are inviting a friend to join the Leagues, or are considering contributing to our League remember – it's tax deductible!

CALENDAR

April 2011

Tuesday

April 5, 2011

GLENDALE

**ELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL,
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD**

Tuesday

April 12, 2011

**BURBANK ALL MAIL IN
GENERAL ELECTION**

**Ballots returned to City Clerk's
office by 5:00 pm**

Thursday

April 21

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Noon - 1:30 pm

**at Marie Callendar's
707 N Pacific Ave
Glendale**

Thursday

April 21

**LOCAL LEAGUE PLANNING
DINNER**

6:30 pm

**House of Joy
818 N Pacific Ave
Glendale**

Friday - Sunday

May 13/15

**LWV OF CALIFORNIA
BIENNIAL CONVENTION;**

Ventura on the beach

Look for details next month

Saturday

June 4th

**LWV GLENDALE/BURBANK
ANNUAL MEETING**

www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

League Meetings This Month

Lunch with the League

Last month the Board announced that we would like to experiment with a lunch time meeting for members who can't attend our evening programs. We picked the 3rd Thursday of the month because that's the day/evening our League has traditionally presented programs. We began on March 17th. Attendance was very low. We were told that some people didn't like the day. **So we're asking all of you – what day of the month would work for you?** We do need to establish a regular day/time so that members don't have to 'guess' each month. If you would like to have a Lunch with the League, then let us know what works. We'll try to pick a date that is convenient for the majority. But we can't continue to schedule lunches and 'just hope' members will attend. So [Email](#) or call 818 925-4598 if you want to participate and have us continue our Lunch meeting.

Charting the League Course for Next Year

Each year at this time, we gather for food, drink and discussion about where our League should go this coming year. Since we are heading into a Presidential election season, there are many possibilities.

- Should we concentrate on voter registration and schedule trainings?
- Should we make even greater efforts to expand our Speakers Bureau?
- Should we continue our tradition of candidates' forums?
- LOCAL ACTION – should we continue our efforts to improve the Campaign Finance laws for both our cities?
- OBSERVER CORPS – are you interested in becoming part of a local Observer Corps to monitor city government?
- Is there some other issue or project you would like to suggest and volunteer for?

Join us and help the League make a difference.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

Presents

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Thursday, April 21, 2011

League Lunch Meeting

Noon - 1:30 pm

Marie Callender's

707 N Pacific Avenue

Glendale



The elections are over and we'll be discussing what happened.

PROGRAM PLANNING DINNER

Thursday, April 21, 2011

Program Planning Dinner

6:30 - 8:00 pm

House of Joy

818 N Pacific Avenue # 1

Glendale

It's time to chart our course for the next League year; enjoy a great dinner and help plan the League's program.



Please RSVP

[Email](#)

or call (818) 925-4598



One of her great loves was Voter Service, giving voters good objective information on the tangled mess of measures on state ballots and registering voters. As a ballot measure speaker she was always prepared and always balanced – no matter her private opinion of the measure. She was always there for League when voter registration drives were planned. So great was her dedication to this work that she once sat for four hours at a registration event, in perfect calm and good humor, concealing the fact that she had a severe pain in her side that took her to the Emergency Room for what turned out to be an appendectomy at midnight.

We also acknowledge her service to the organization as a Board member at both local and county levels. Here in Glendale/Burbank she served on our Board for years, doing whatever job needed to be done; pitching in during emergencies; offering wise counsel. She would

Gwen Cochrane

1927-2011

League leaders are traditionally described as small but mighty; Gwen Cochrane was smaller and mightier than most. And she brought to the League her incisive intelligence, passion for good government and dry humor and so graced our organization for decades.

When we were studying policy issues, Gwen brought us that incisive intelligence. She was a meticulous researcher, objective in her attitude, and insisted upon looking at all sides. She participated in numerous studies examining policy questions at the local, county, state and national levels. The study committee could always depend upon her to do her part (and several others) and act as a check on bias. Often playing the role of Devil's Advocate, and always with good humor, she kept us 'honest'.

run down to a Council meeting at the last minute, work at candidates forums, register voters, and served as President when we had a leadership crisis. She was always there for Glendale/Burbank. As Treasurer of the County League she was a meticulous and prudent steward of League resources.

And Gwen was fun. Whether lunching around town researching possible venues for League events, arriving early and staying late for our League's annual party at Gordon Biersch, or chatting over coffee before meetings she was just fun to be with. Her quiet but deadly observations on the political goings on – and the politicians who were going on – will be treasured by her friends. And in long League meetings she would look up from her notes and meet your eye briefly conveying a message so clear that it was a struggle not to break out laughing.

The Issue Continues

Campaign Finance Reform

By Laurie Collins

The League has been instrumental in making the case for campaign finance reform and transparency in government in Burbank and Glendale. But more needs to be done.

The adoption three years ago of Glendale's Campaign Finance ordinance was a big step forward. Ongoing controversy about candidates in the last municipal election accepting in excess of \$20,000 each from subcontractors under contract to construct a low income housing project funded with redevelopment money illustrates that there are loopholes to address.

In Burbank, League members have pushed for registration of lobbyists and met strong resistance. Both the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles require lobbyists to register.

The recent passage of Measure H in the City of Los Angeles should be inspiration for us all.

Endorsed by the Los Angeles League and Common Cause, Measure H provides both a template and strong precedent for further reforms in Glendale and Burbank.

Measure H not only bars persons who bid or submit proposals to a City contract solicitation from making campaign contributions to any City official and candidate for City elected office, it bars subcontractors expected to receive a portion of the contract from making campaign contributions and prohibits fundraising by both the contractor and subcontractors for any elected official or candidate.

Members of the League meet in February to discuss a plan of action. Those attending proposed the following:

- Adoption of ordinances in both cities to require lobbyists to register.
- Amend the Glendale and Burbank Campaign Finance ordinances using Measure H as the model.
- Lower the campaign contribution limit in Glendale from \$1000 to \$500.

[Los Angeles recently passed] Measure H [which] not only bars persons who bid or submit proposals to a City contract solicitation from making campaign contributions to any City official and candidate for City elected office, it bars subcontractors expected to receive a portion of the contract from making campaign contributions and prohibits fundraising by both the contractor and subcontractors for any elected official or candidate.

A message from LWVUS President, Elizabeth MacNamara

Happy Birthday, Affordable Care Act!
You're 1 today, and wow what a year it has been. Since last year:

Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions

Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage

Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans until age 26

Together, we've made a lot of progress in the last year to ensure that more Americans have access to better, more affordable health care. But if some members of Congress have their way, our progress will be lost. No more coverage for children with pre-existing conditions. No more unlimited coverage. No more insurance for young adults getting on their feet.

The cost of repeal will be vast.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that repeal of the Affordable Care Act would add \$230 billion to the national deficit over the next ten years and leave about 54 million Americans without insurance.

And that's why we must spring into action once again.


In the coming year, we have a lot to look forward to: new innovations to bring down health care costs, increased access to home and community care for the disabled and expanded access to high-quality care for more American residents.

We have too much to lose to go back to where we started. We will not back down now. We will continue our work with local Leagues and volunteers to ensure true health care reform and coverage for all.

So Happy Birthday, Affordable Care Act. You've come a long way, and you still have so much to achieve. We're here to make sure that happens.

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**Contributions
to the
GWEN COCHRANE
Memorial Fund**

Tax deductible contributions to the Gwen Cochrane Memorial Fund can be made to LWVGlendale/Burbank [Donate](#)

Chris and Tom Carson

Katherine Dunlop



Janet Weyman

Georganne Thomsen

Liza White

Gloria O'Donohoe

LA County Dept. of Health Services




**WELCOME
Returning
Members**

Margarita Campos

Carole Dougherty

Jane Kneeder

Linda Lammers

Di Rodriguez



 **Membership Application**

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. You can do it all online at our [Website](#). Or you can use this form to mail in your application. All Citizens of voting age are welcome. Associate Membership is open to all others.

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)

- \$60.00 for a one-year individual membership (includes a copy of our VOTER, nine times per year)
- \$100.00 for a one-year household membership for two members who share the same address (includes a copy of our VOTER nine times per year)
- \$30.00 for a one-year student membership.

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 P.O. Box 21173
 Glendale CA 91221-5273

I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$ _____

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

Voter

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

LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK

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League websites:
LWV Glendale/Burbank
www.lwvglendaleburbank.org

LWV California
www.ca.LWV.org

LWV United States
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