

President's Message

THANK YOU TO THE LEAGUE for electing me your President for another term. I am delighted to have been elected, and am pleased that you have placed your confidence in me. We have an excellent slate of officers and directors, and we are prepared to do the League's work with energy and enthusiasm.

We had a very enjoyable Annual Meeting at the Tam O' Shanter Restaurant. I had never been there before, and I enjoyed the food and atmosphere immensely—even the bagpipes.

I am pleased to announce that our new Board Member Joan Hardie will be taking over the position of Voter Service Chair for Glendale. She'll do a wonderful job, and we'll make sure she has lots of help and support.

I've just recently returned from the State League convention in Bakersfield, which you will hear more about later in this Voter issue. I was impressed at the energy and intellect of the delegates. League members are a select and dedicated group, and getting together provides a surge of enthusiasm for the League and its mission of voter education and advocacy.

We are planning an interesting League summer. Instead of the usual hiatus, we will work on the national immigration study. We will meet to go over the material prepared by the national committee, and will have a consensus meeting in the fall. I hope you can attend the meetings, as they will be interesting and important—and very lively, I'm sure!

Monica Marquez

June 2007 Calendar

Saturday
June 9

**It's Our Healthcare-
Party and Press Event**

Saturday
July 21

**Annual Summer League
Day**

Popovers in Pasadena
See flyer on page 3

Saturday
September 29

**LWV/LAC Training for
Candidates Forums**



Vera Naylor, treasurer LWV Glendale/Burbank, presents newly re-elected LWV Glendale/Burbank president Monica Marquez with a gift from members in recognition of her service as Chapter President for the term 2006-2007.

Chapter Holds Successful Annual Meeting at Tam O'Shanter Restaurant

OUR CHAPTER held a successful annual meeting on May 5, 2007 at the Tam O'Shanter Restaurant. Members and guests enjoyed an excellent lunch, which was followed by a presentation by the **City Clerk of Glendale, Ardashes Kassakhian**. Mr. Kassakhian addressed the annual meeting with a report on local Glendale election matters.

OUR EXISTING PROGRAM POSITIONS regarding Education K-12 & Community College (Glendale), Housing & Redevelopment, Local Government, Zoning, Land Use, Child Care and Libraries (Glendale & Burbank) were readopted. In addition, members voted to adopt a Modification of the Local Government position, which was based on the consensus of our Local Campaign Financing Study. A statement regarding local campaign financing has been added, as follows:

Support for broadening the base of campaign funding to include direct public funding for local elections in Glendale and Burbank, whether partial or complete.

Support for reasonable limitations on campaign contributions in city council, school board, and community college elections, including any recall, referendum or propositions. Reasonable limits should have the goal of:

- Reducing the appearance or reality of corruption
- Leveling the playing field for women and minorities
- Encouraging more participation by individuals and encouraging small donations

—Reducing the candidates' costs of running election campaigns

Support for broadening the base of campaign funding to include complete or partial subsidy of government services such as candidate ballot statements, televised candidate interviews or statements, community candidate forums.

Support for more stringent conflict-of-interest laws that would reduce the appearance or reality of election corruption.

Support for improving the availability and timeliness of campaign finance disclosure by candidates and proposition supporters; also sufficient funding for strong enforcement of disclosure laws and regulations.

THE SLATE OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS RECOMMENDED by the Nominating Committee was accepted. For the term 2007 – 2009, **Monica Marquez** continues as our President. **Gwen Cochran** will serve again in the position of First Vice President, and **Mary Dickson** will continue in the position of Secretary. Our new Directors for the term 2007 – 2009 are **Laurie Collins** and **Joan Hardie**. **Dionisia Rodriguez** is continuing as Director for the term 2007 – 2009.

MONICA MARQUEZ ALSO REPORTED on action initiatives, including green building standards, universal health care and clean money campaigns.



2007 Annual Summer League Day

Popovers in Pasadena

Keynote Speaker to be announced when confirmed

Immigration



Women's City Club
160 North Oakland
Pasadena

parking in rear off Madison, 1-1½ blocks north of Colorado Blvd

Saturday, July 21, 2007
9:30 AM to 2 PM

WORKSHOPS

- For Presidents
- Immigration Study Coalition
- Secrets of Doing a Local Study & Writing the Study Questions
- Editing for VOTER Editors

This is a unique opportunity to become acquainted with other local League members at our traditional luncheon

Reservation Deadline is July 11, 2007 (Note increased fee if reservation made after July 11)

Send form and check payable to LWV/LAC (Our treasurer will be on vacation)

Mail to LWV/LAC c/o Georganne Thomsen (818-244-5304), 1259 Winchester Ave., Glendale CA 91201

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$25.00 each Total enclosed: \$ _____

If postmarked after July 11, fee is increased

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$30.00 each Total enclosed: \$ _____

League _____

Name(s) _____

Chicken Luncheon # _____ Vegetarian Luncheon # _____

Luncheon without NUTS or other allergans (please name) # _____

SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP

For Presidents # _____ Immigration Study Coalition # _____

Editing for VOTER Editors # _____ Secrets of Doing a Local Study # _____

Workshop on Immigration Issues

GLENDALE/BURBANK AND OTHER LOCAL

Leagues will be conducting a workshop on immigration and immigration issues at the LWV/LAC 2007 Annual Summer League Day-Popovers in Pasadena.

The information presented will address immigration issues in the Los Angeles County area and will complement the materials that are being produced by the LWVUS study. Topics will include; what to expect in the consensus questions and leaders guide, the impact of immigration on local business, the role of local police and sheriff in enforcing immigration laws, and the impact of immigration on local health services and education. This workshop will help everyone become better prepared for the consensus process in Fall 2007.

LWV/LAC 2007 Annual Summer League Day

POPOVERS IN PASADENA

JULY 21, 2007

9:30am to 2pm

Women's City Club

160 North Oakland, Pasadena

See the flyer on page 3 to SIGN UP NOW or visit the LWV Glendale/Burbank web site Calendar section at <http://www.gb.ca.lwvnet.org/> for more information.

“Rally in the Valley” State League Convention 2007

by Monica Marquez

I WAS PLEASED TO ATTEND the State League Convention in Bakersfield from May 17-20. It was dubbed “Rally in the Valley,” and was ably hosted by the Bakersfield League at the Doubletree Hotel, who provided fresh baked chocolate chip cookies at registration.

My first assignment was to attend a seminar on conducting elections for Common Interest Developments. Sounds dry? It wasn't. Last year, California implemented a law requiring homeowner associations such as condo complexes to retain the services of a neutral third party to conduct their elections. The League is a natural fit, as we have been conducting fair elections for years. The associations will pay the Leagues to conduct the elections, so it is an opportunity for fundraising as well as public service. We received detailed information on the law, but what was most interesting to me was the participation of the audience members. Some had already conducted large elections—over 1000 votes—and had interesting stories to share. Others were deeply concerned about potential pitfalls. I believe that this can be a great opportunity for our League. We already oversee an election for a Section 8 Housing Complex every year. We will see what develops as the year progresses.

Much of the convention was devoted to State League business—including updating the by-laws, adopting a budget, and settling on priorities for next year's program. One hot topic was our position on redistricting, a topic close to the heart of our own **Chris**

Carson, who serves on the State Board as Government Director. The League is actively working on redistricting in Sacramento, as it has been an issue for education and advocacy. But a number of delegates wanted to drop the issue, or to change our government position to favor multi-member districts. Lively and mostly polite debate ensued, and in the end the attempt to change the position was defeated and the convention voted to retain redistricting as an issue for education and advocacy.

There were workshops on League management. I attended one on alternative Board structures—e.g. what to do when there's no one to serve as president. It's a problem many Leagues are facing, and they're revamping their Boards to work with the situation. The other workshop was on managing change, and what to do when a board member gets completely overwhelmed. It calls for some quick thinking and diplomacy.

And it wouldn't be a convention without shopping opportunities. I did my share, coming into ownership of a LWV baseball cap, watches, pens, pencils and a lovely folio with the League logo embossed on the cover.

Also attending from our League were **Chris** and **Tom Carson**, and new Board member **Joan Hardie**. Joan helped me make the most of all of our convention time—including a salsa dancing lesson in the hotel bar. I discovered that I'm not very good at salsa dancing, but the live band was just terrific.

Smart Voter Delivers to Both Coasts

(from *The California Voter – Spring 2007*)

CALIFORNIA VOTERS VISITED Smart Voter in droves to find information about the November 7, 2006 general election. The Web site delivered 7,000,000 pages in the thirty days before the recent election—that's four times the number of pages delivered during a comparable statewide election in 2002.

Because 6,000 other Web sites linked to *SmartVoter.org*, it appeared high in many Google search results. Smart Voter frequently appears as one of the top three Web sites in searches on propositions and candidates. Over 50 percent of Smart Voter's visitors found the Web site by doing a search.

There were 5,000 candidates and 364 ballot measures on Smart Voter for the recent general election. Los Angeles and San Diego had the highest number of local ballot measures, 29 and 20 respectively.

Santa Clara County had the highest candidate participation rate; 81 percent of the 208 candidates used Smart Voter to convey their message to the public. San Diego County had the most candidates: 566. Orange County volunteers had the highest number of participating candidates at 296.

The City of Cupertino did an admirable job of featuring Smart Voter on the City Web site. The LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale and many candidates enthusiastically referred voters to the site, resulting in the highest number of ballot/polling place lookups—over 29,000.

Smart Voter made its New York debut on November 7 with information about state level and Westchester County, NY candidates and races. Voters in New York visited more than 500,000 electronic pages to find the information they needed to cast an informed vote. "We had 22 candidates log on and enter information [in one day]. I'm very encouraged," commented Rob Marchiony, Smart Voter New York State Coordinator.

Did you see the innovative video for Smart Voter that appeared on YouTube? Many individual "MySpace" bloggers sent friends and family to Smart Voter. One blogger asked, "Do you know what's happening in your 'hood? Visit Smart Voter."

It is easy for voters of any age to find information on Smart Voter. Simply type in your address and zip code at SmartVoter.org to find your personalized ballot for the upcoming election, along with links to a wealth of in depth, nonpartisan resources. Smart Voter is an online voter service project of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.

For more information, contact Trudell Een at director@smartvoter.org or 408 323-9611.



Smart Voter frequently appears as one of the top three Web sites in searches on propositions and candidates.



More League News . . .

Climate Change Advocacy Statement (from LWVUS)

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS the integrity of the earth's climate system and there is a need to act without delay to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To reduce the likelihood of severe damage to both human societies and natural ecosystems the League supports:

- The preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment.
- Energy goals and policies that acknowledge the United States as a responsible member of the world community through sound use of energy resources with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production and emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies.

In addition, the League believes that policy makers must take into account the ramifications of their decisions on the nation as a whole as well as on other nations.

LWV LAC (Los Angeles County) Training for Candidates Forums – Saturday, September 29

SAVE THE DATE for the LWV LAC training for candidates forums—learn how to be a moderator, question sorter, and get great new ideas for how to do candidates forums. This training event will be held at Taix Restaurant in Los Angeles. More information to follow.



LWVEF (League of Women Voters Education Fund) Releases Observer Corps Guide, Offers Training

THE LWVEF RECENTLY RELEASED “Observing Your Government in Action: Protecting Your Right to Know.” This is an easy-to-read, “how to” resource guide on organizing and conducting observer programs. It includes “best practices” and success stories from the field as well as information about how these programs can contribute to the vitality of the League. One copy of the guide was mailed to each local and state League and ILO. Additional copies are available for purchase at www.lwv.org/store, or Leagues can download copies from the “Openness in Government” section of www.lwv.org. If your League is interested in learning more about organizing successful Observer Corps programs, join LWVUS staff on a conference call on **June 4 at 11 am (ET)**. Slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If interested, RSVP to tcummings@lwv.org.

LWV Glendale/Burbank Offers New Scholarship Program at Glendale Community College

OUR CHAPTER WILL BE OFFERING two \$250 scholarships for students in the Scholar's Program at Glendale Community College. The scholarship recipients will also receive gift student memberships in the League. If they keep up their grades and participate in League activities, their scholarships will be renewed for one year. The first awards will be given at the end of the spring semester 2008.

Contributions to the League of Women Voters Education Fund are being accepted to support this new program. Some contributions have already been received.

The League of Women Voters is very concerned about the lack of knowledge and emphasis on Civics/Government in schools. The goal of the scholarship program is to highlight and reward excellence and achievement in this vital area.

Please
remember
the League
in your will.

Member News

Connie Wilson has been appointed to the City of Burbank Library Board.

Rosa Frommer was a recipient of the Glendale YWCA's 2007 Heart and Excellence Award. She was honored for her work with the American Association of University Women, and the League of Women Voters. She was also recognized for her service as a mentor for many young women.



Membership Application

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters of Glendale/Burbank. 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

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.

The Voter

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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 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.

THANK YOU

to our generous advertisers.

And a special thanks to MailBoxes Etc. for making free copies of the Voter for mailing to members who have no access to the internet.



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

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

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