

Voter



LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
GLENDALE/BURBANK

October 2009

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

JOIN US

Thursday
October 15, 2009
6 pm

**Initiative and
Referendum
Status and
Prospects**

**Chris Carson
LWV/GB Co-President**

**House of Joy
Chinese Restaurant
818 N. Pacific Avenue
Glendale CA 91203**

**Each person orders his/
her own dinner.**

<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

Co-President's Message

Joan Hardie

Thanks to all who ventured out for our September monthly meeting to enjoy Chinese food at the House of Joy and a chance to hear **Xandra Kayden** speak about the possibility of a California Constitutional Convention. We had a great turn out, 19 people, and we fit perfectly in the side room the restaurant provided for us.

It was so nice to see everyone. The big turn out was encouraging and reminds me that our members are engaged and vibrant citizens. Also, a special thanks to Xandra for taking the time to inform us about an idea that is both radical and perhaps necessary. Thank you Xandra, for sharing your wealth of information California Constitutional and the possibility of a Constitutional Convention.

Our dinner at the House of Joy was such a smashing success that we've decided to return. Please join us again on October 15 at 6 pm. This time our program will feature our own **Chris Carson**, who will speak on the Initiative and Referendum process.

Well the fall season is upon us, which is one of my favorite seasons in southern California, but is also tends to be a very busy time. And this season is no exception. The League is busy with planning some important forums regarding health care and education, as well as a forum on electing vs. appointing the City Clerk and City Treasurer positions in the City of Glendale.

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A Bit of History on our Doorstep

By Monica Marquez

For the past several years I've been asking League members to give me any League files they might have. When I became President, I inherited a two-drawer file cabinet filled with documents. I had hoped to find a lot of League history there, but I was disappointed. The files were surprisingly sparse.

I was checking my email one day not long ago when a message came in from the Glendale Historical Society. They were cleaning up their office and had come across a box of documents that might be of interest to us. Intrigued, I quickly made arrangements to pick up the box in Glendale. It was a bright orange banker's box, labeled, fittingly enough, "Orange Box."

It smelled a bit dusty, which piqued my interest even more—many treasures lurk among the dust. I opened the box and it was filled with files. The first file to greet me was labeled "Mental Health—1962." This 47 year old file contained the papers documenting a study on mental health in Glendale. The members of the committee may be familiar to some of our older members: **Lucille MacLeod, Vivian Goldfine, Irene Teasley, Rose Soroky, Gay Frank, Phyllis Campbell** and **Ether Sutherland.**

There was more. File after file of League studies from the 1960's through the 1980's. Childcare. National Security. Housing. Hazardous Waste. Education. And, from the more things change, the more they stay the same department, a workbook from a 1983 state study on "Initiative and Referendum in California: A legacy Lost? A Study of Direct Legislation in California from Progressive Hope to Present Reality." That's the topic for our upcoming October meeting! On the committee was **Nikki Harris**, who last year served our League as an advisor to our MGIK (Membership Growth is Key) program. This particular workbook belonged to **Mitzi Chandler**. I'll be sure to bring the workbook to our October 15 meeting and we can marvel not only over the contents, but the fact that the 119 page document was produced on a **TYPEWRITER!**

But there was more. Original copies of our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Board Meeting Minutes. Annual Meeting Kits from 1962 to 1984. Here were all the documents I thought I would find in the League file cabinet.

I asked our contact at the Glendale Historical Society how they had come to have the League's documents, but she said no one there was sure how it happened. They were just there. I am grateful to the Glendale Historical Society for caring for the documents all these years, and even happier to have them back in our possession.

LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP



The East San Gabriel Valley League invites you to learn what the League does and how it does it!

Date & Time: Saturday, October 10 - Registration 9:30 am
Workshop ends at 2:30 pm

Location: Covina Woman's Club
128 S. San Jose Avenue
Covina CA 91723
Just off E. Badillo St., between S. Citrus & S. Barranca Avenues

Price: \$25 / person; \$30 after October 2 (\$15 if bring own lunch)

Topics: "Constitutional Reform: What's Happening and What You Can Do to Make It Happen"
"Political, YES; Partisan, NO! Walking the Fine Line"
"Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of the League's Members' Only Web Page"
"The Welcoming League: Engaging and Retaining Your Members"

Please register (and pay by credit card) at the LWVC website:
www.lwvc.org
by October 2
or write check payable to LWVC & mail with form to
LWV East San Gabriel Valley, P.O. Box 4242, Covina CA 91723

If you have questions or need additional information please contact
Rosie Fabian rfabian2000@msn.com or Caroline deLlamas cdellamas@cs.com

Name _____ League _____

Phone _____ Email _____

League of Women Voters of the United States in Health Care Controversy

On September 3, 2009 the League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following press release:

LWV URGES COPYCAT ORGANIZATION TO END MISLEADING HEALTH CARE ADS—
League of Women Voters Objects to Deceptive Advertising By “League of American Voters.”

Washington, DC – In a hand-delivered letter, the League of Women Voters called on the “League of American Voters (LAV) to “cease and desist” from using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League’s in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform.

“The League of American Voters health care ad makes misleading statements in an inflammatory

“Not only does your ad distort the facts on health care reform, it does so using a name that is deceptively similar to the League of Women Voters.”

Mary G. Wilson League of Women Voters President

way,” League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson stated in her letter to LAV Executive Director Bob Adams. “Not only does your ad distort the facts on health care reform, it does so using a name that is deceptively similar to the League of Women Voters,” Wilson said.

“We are not convinced that this startup group is a credible organization with authority to speak on behalf of American voters,” Wilson said. “They may have a legitimate-sounding name, but—until we know who is funding the ads—there is no reason to believe that they are anything other than another organization serving as a conduit for big-money attacks on health care reform.”

“This is typical of the kinds of things we are seeing from the opponents of health care reform. Intentionally putting out bad information to mislead, confuse and scare Americans,” Wilson charged.

“This copycat group appears to be entirely inaccessible to the public. We had to hand-deliver our letter because the group’s website lists no email address or fax number,” Wilson said, pointing out that the group’s office address is shared with several lobbying groups who were unable to locate LAV management or staff.

“The League is releasing the text of this letter to set the record straight: The work of Mr. Adams’ organization should in no way be confused with the League of Women Voters,” Wilson added.

“The League of Women Voters of the United States has more than 150,000 members and supporters nationwide, and we are one of the most trusted non-partisan organizations in the U.S. Our members and the public rely on us to share information responsibly and accurately, because that is what we have done for almost 90 years,” Wilson said.

“Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans.”

Mary G. Wilson, League of Women Voters President

League controversy continued on page 5

League controversy continued from page 4

“Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans,” Wilson stated.

“The League of American Voters would best serve Americans by telling the truth in their ads. Our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people, not misinformation from mysterious, inaccessible organization that get money from unknown sources to create national TV spots in order to block needed health care reform.” Wilson concluded. That ended the press release, but it started the controversy.

It seems to me that a simple Press Release pointing out the confusion with the League name, telling people to go to the LWV website to see our positions on health care, and encouraging all citizens to have civil discussions over their disagreements would have been a more reasonable reaction.”

Posting on League’s Discussion Board

The League of American Voters fired back, charging in a fund raising appeal that a “Pro-Obama group wants to shut us down.” Ward’s letter began: Late last week I was simply shocked by a letter I received. I was sitting in my Washington, D.C. office when an office assistant said an urgent letter had been delivered to our office. I opened the letter – from the League of Women Voters – demanding that the organization I run – the League of American Voters – cease to exist! Incredibly, the letter was signed by Mary Wilson, the president of the League of Women Voters. Wilson makes no bones about it – she wants me and the League of American Voters to shut down because she doesn’t like our views opposing Barack Obama’s radical health care plan. She also believes what we have to

say is not credible because we are a relatively new organization! I found it incredible that an organization like hers that claims to support democratic institutions would try to censor us and our members. He ended the letter by noting “I found Mary’s letter the most obnoxious, hypocritical political letter I have seen in my long career. I am stunned someone who heads a well-known organization would write such a childish letter. I am reprinting Mary Wilson’s letter in full below so you can see the hysterical reaction we are getting from the Left because of our effective TV ad. And please make sure you see our TV ad – donate and join us today.”

Then, debate raged among League members on the League’s Discussion Boards as to the appropriateness of Wilson’s letter. One member said: “I think LWVUS may have over reacted on this one and given this group more publicity than it deserves. Now both LWVUS and the other “League” are using it for fund-raising. There are many groups across the country that have a different opinion than LWV, that aren’t dealing with factual information on many issues, or that have the word League in their name, and League hasn’t sent them all letters telling them to “cease and desist.” It seems to me that a simple Press Release pointing out the confusion with the League name, telling people to go to the LWV website to see our positions on health care, and encouraging all citizens to have civil discussions over their disagreements would have been a more reasonable reaction.”

Another post criticized Mary Wilson for acting: “I agree that the LWVUS should not have taken on this group. We are no match for people like this and the name is not more similar than the League of Conservation Voters, as Mr. Adams points out. I am also disturbed by the plea for emergency contributions. It smacks of the Chicken Little form of fund raising used by many organizations. I hope it will end with this appeal. Many of our members are sympathetic and I hope they are not being taken advantage of by the organization they trust the most.”

League controversy continued from page 6

President's Message continued from page 1

The landmark 90th Birthday of the League is coming up on Feb. 14, 2010....Not only do we want to celebrate appropriately, we also want to capitalize on the event by getting lots of exposure.

Also of note is the landmark 90th Birthday of the League coming up on Feb. 14, 2010. It was in 1920 when the passage of the 19th amendment appeared to be a reality that the members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters. We are at the initial planning phase of this big event. Not only do we want to celebrate appropriately, we also want to capitalize on the event by getting lots of exposure.

We are looking to plan several events to recognize the significance of this event that will hopefully yield some good outcomes such as media exposure and new members. This is a call out to all members who want to be a part of the celebration and its planning. If you have any good ideas or just want to be a part of the planning let us know by emailing us. **We need you.**

League controversy continued from page 5

The final word on the message Boards came from a Rhode Island President, who related a story told by one of their Past Presidents: "In the city [Warwick, RI] there was a self-described Independent Man who through letters to the editor of the Providence Journal castigated both political parties for his perception of their errors, both commission and omission. The League became an object of his discontent and he sent me a letter denouncing us as defenders of Communism and implying I was receiving (and disseminating) material directly from Moscow. To add emphasis to his claims, the letter was written entirely in red ink, envelope included.

"Of course he expected I would complain through a letter to the Providence Journal about this accusation, hoping to stir up a controversy. Instead I sent the letter back to him with this note attached: 'I think you should be made aware that someone is sending out scurrilous and abusive letters such as this one and signing your name to them.' I never heard from him again." [The letter] offered a great intro to one of our Suffragist Sing-alongs, "Don't let the turkeys get you down"!

Green Corner

According to the web site Smartpower.org, by breaking out that steamer you thought you'd never use, not only will you cook your veggies in a way that keeps more of their nutritional value, but you'll save roughly \$20 a year more than you would by cooking them on the stove top.

LWV GLENDALE/BURBANK is pleased to announce notecards designed especially for us are now available.

Local artist Robin Palanker features five local women. All proceeds benefit LWV Glendale/Burbank

Set includes 10 cards, on 80 lb. paper two each of 5 figures LWVG/B logo on the back

\$13.00 per set, 2 sets for \$25.00 includes tax and handling

The supply is limited. To order, send the tearoff with your check.



PLEASE mail check payable to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GLENDALE/BURBANK,
PO Box 21010, Glendale CA 91221-5110

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ sets of notecards.



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)

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.

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

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.



What will your legacy be?

As a leader in your community, you know what you want to accomplish for yourself, for your family, and for your community. Consider making the League of Women Voters® part of your overall estate plan next time you speak with your attorney or financial professional, so that your hard work will carry on.

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League websites:
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<http://www.lwvglendaleburbank.org>

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

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

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