



CALENDAR

February

- 4 LEAGUE DAY, Affordable Housing
- 8 VOTER Deadline
- 10 Board Meeting
- 16 VOTER Mailing
- 17-19 Unit Meetings

March

- 4 LEAGUE DAY, Sunshine Week
- 6 Access to Impact Forum
- 8 VOTER Deadline
- 10 Board Meeting
- 16 VOTER Mailing
- 17-19 Unit Meetings

LEAGUE DAY Affordable Housing

Thursday, February 4

9:30 a.m.

Women's City Club
160 N. Oakland, Pasadena
(parking at rear, enter from N. Madison)

Lunch \$20
includes tax, tip, and parking

For reservations, please phone the
League office at 626-798-0965 by
noon on Friday, January 29.

A reservation made must be paid for.
Please let us know if you cannot attend,
and we will try to resell your reservation.

AFTERMATH OF THE HOUSING INDUSTRY COLLAPSE

By Michelle White,
Units Director



While subprime activity related almost exclusively to market rate sales of single family housing units, the resulting financial collapse has impacted the availability of funds for all levels of housing – affordable, market rate and luxury units; rental and for-purchase housing; single and multifamily units.

The LWVPA League Day on February 4 at the Women's City Club will explore the aftermath of the housing industry collapse on area affordable housing opportunities. In the morning, the panel of speakers will include:



Joseph Carreras, *Southern California Area Governments
Housing and Regional Housing Needs Assessment Program Manager*

Mr. Carreras will provide an overview of the Southern California area housing demographics, trends and prospects.



Remy De La Peza, *Public Counsel Housing Attorney and
Member, Pasadena Affordable Housing Group Coordinating Council*

Ms. De La Peza will discuss recent litigation and its impacts on local efforts to provide affordable housing, as well as how to make the most of General Plan update actions – especially housing and land use activities in Pasadena to address housing needs.



William Huang, *Pasadena Housing Department Director*

Mr. Huang will discuss the impacts of the financial downturn on Pasadena, provide the status of the subsidized affordable housing and inclusionary projects - including those that were in the pipeline - and discuss Pasadena's short and long term plans to meet its housing needs.

The League Day afternoon activities will build on the morning session and equip participants with tools to deal with policy proposals that affect the development of affordable housing likely to surface as area municipalities update their General Plans. Pasadena, which is in the process of updating five of its General Plan's 15 elements (land use, open space, transportation, mobility, and housing), will be used as the example for the afternoon's activities. Participants will explore the affordable housing implications of existing policies and practices and/or those under consideration.

The afternoon activities will be applicable to members living **in all cities**. The day is designed to bring members of up to date on area housing trends and activities, as well as to equip you to help shape your community. **Please join us.**

Get Connected . . .

With each other, with our communities, with issues for advocacy and information and with other nonpartisan groups that share our concerns

UNITS

In February, the Units will discuss the interrelationships of land use, open space, transportation and other general plan elements and affordable housing.

BREAKFAST UNIT

Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 a.m.
at Melody Soul Food Restaurant,
755 East Washington Blvd., Pasadena
(Just west of Lake Blvd. 626-797-7800.
Coffee or breakfast can be ordered.
Chair and Membership:
Nedra Kirkland,

SOUTH UNIT

Wednesday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.
at the home of Marcia Spira,
Chair: Marcia Spira,
Membership: Ruth Willner,

EAST UNIT

Thursday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee at 9:30 a.m.,
at the home of Laurie Cooper,
Chair: Bea Wolfe,
Membership: Joan Zukoski,

NORTH UNIT

Thursday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.
at the home of Sara Carnahan,
Chair: Ray Bennett,
Membership: Gloria Reynolds,

PASADENA HIGHLANDS UNIT

Friday, February 19, 3:00 P.M.
at 1575 E. Washington Blvd.,
Pasadena,
Temporary Chair and Membership:
Michelle White

The Voter is available

- by mail,
- by e-mail, and
- on our website.

at www.lwvpasadenaarea.org.



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

INTERNET RESOURCES

California State Auditor

Applications for Citizens Redistricting Commission
www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org
LWV California Ed Fund provides statewide propositions, local candidates and issues, media links, and background materials

LA County Registrar-Recorder
www.lavote.net Election calendar, polling places look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials

Easy Voter Guide

www.easyvoter.org
Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

Secretary of State

www.ss.ca.gov
Official text of ballot measures, candidates' statements, maps, dates, election returns

CA Legislative Analyst

www.lao.ca.gov
Analysis of all ballot measures

CA Voter Foundation

www.calvoter.org Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

CA Budget Project

www.cbp.org
Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, February 12

Last day to apply for Citizens Redistricting Commission

Saturday, March 27

LWV LA County Convention

Saturday, April 24th 9:00 a.m.

The County League will train League members on presenting the Pros and Cons for the four state ballot measures. This informative training will take place at the lovely Hollenbeck Home in East Los Angeles. Contact Sasha Evangelista, Speakers Bureau Director, at sasha.evangelista@gmail.com to make an early reservation.

May 6th is our League Day on Pros and Cons. Robbie Davis will conduct the local training after April 24th.

May 15 & 16 LWV California Leadership Council in Sacramento

June 8th is Election Day.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

Our League needs a **Director** to keep our membership up to date on our use of **Natural Resources**.

If you are willing to fill this position, you will be more informed yourself and perform a valuable service to your community as well as to your League.

Write to President Petite Morrison (LBMPCM@mac.com) or call our office (626) 798- 0965 to say "yes."

from Petite . . .

The League of Women Voters has its 90th birthday on February 14th, six months before August 26th, the 90th birthday of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution giving women the right to vote. The League was formed out of the Women's Suffrage movement as a nonpartisan civic organization that could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy.

The League of the ten cities of our Pasadena Area has continued to be very active serving our communities. A fruitful program planning meeting in January will be followed by our February 4th League Day on Affordable Housing. Until February 12th you can apply for the opportunity to serve on the State Redistricting Commission. Our March 6th League Day is on "Access to Impact: Using Open Government to Create Change."

Our Voters Service Director, Shannon Telles, was at Gabrielino High School in January to pass out Voter Registration materials to eligible High School Seniors.

We continue to follow Healthcare legislation, the possibility of a Parcel Tax in Pasadena, the bond issues to be voted on in June, and preparing for these with Pros and Cons and Speakers Bureau.

Every day is a celebration of our actions and goals in assuring the betterment of democracy.



Petite

Petite Morrison

President, LWVPA

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Pasadena Area

Visit our Office:

10 am – 1 pm • Monday – Friday
1353 N. Hill Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91104-2611
(just north of Washington Blvd.)

Phone: (626) 798-0965

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office@lwvpasadenaarea.org

Visit our website:

www.lwvpasadenaarea.org

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Nominating SAMANTHA LAU

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Editors GAY KINMAN, ANN HUNNEWELL
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SOCIAL POLICY

by Monica Hubbard
Social Policy Director

“We elect politicians to be guardians for our future. It’s only common sense to expect them to be thoughtful and careful about what’s best for all of us, our children, our grandchildren, and the world we live in. Our job as citizens is to be equally thoughtful, careful, and engaged. We participate by voting, by being well-informed, by volunteering, and by holding our politicians and ourselves accountable for our shared future.” So says the Inquiry Institute, a group dedicated to bringing the benefits of open-minded inquiry to individuals, teams, families, organizations, and society at large.

On his first full day in office, President Obama moved to make the federal government more open and transparent by issuing a directive requiring agencies to increase public involvement in planning and policy making.

In his first three months in office, President Obama committed to create an Open Government Directive for all federal agencies, hosted the first virtual town hall from the White House, directed the Attorney General to develop new guidelines for agency responsiveness to FOIA requests, created the White House Office of Public Engagement and the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation, and experimented broadly with the use of online technologies to increase transparency and participation.

As League members we know that “Democracy is not a spectator sport.” We are being given an unprecedented opportunity by our President to have a say in how government works. What does this mean for our country, our work?

Turning closer to home, how will President Obama’s Open Government initiatives trickle down to our local city councils, school boards and other government boards and commissions?

The founding vision of our country – to create a government of the people, by the people and for the people – has floundered in recent years as the number of people who believe our government represents their interests has dwindled to embarrassing depths and the

ability of our leaders in Washington and Sacramento to find common ground positions on our greatest challenges has virtually disappeared. While historic events, like the aftermath of 9/11, have occasionally bought the nation together and temporarily restored the promise of our democracy, the institutional barriers that divide the public from the nation’s governance process have only increased over time. The President’s commitment to create a more open and participatory government has the potential to reverse these trends. It is an exciting and positive step forward.

Open and participatory government will be the focus of the March 6 community forum, “Access to Impact: Using Open Government to Create Change.” Mark your calendars now and plan to be part of the discussion on what open government looks like in our League’s service area. 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Neighborhood Church, 301 North Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena.

Observer Corps Reports



Altadena (Monica Hubbard) Herbert S. Simmons resigned from the Altadena Town Council a few hours prior to a closed meeting of the Council on December 15, 2009 that was to determine if he would be removed from his council seat for ethics violations. Any Altadena resident in census tract 4602 wishing to be appointed to fill the vacancy can submit an application to the Town Council and appear to make a presentation. The vacancy will be filled at the January or February meeting. The application is posted on the Town Council’s Web site

- The Altadena Community Plan and The Altadena Community Standards District documents are now available on the Town Council’s Web site at www.altadenatowncouncil.org.

- Assemblymember Anthony Portantino held his Legislative Update and Campaign Breakfast meeting in Altadena at the Community Center on January 30.

South Pasadena



(Joan Hewett) At the January 7th City Council meeting during the “public comment” period concerned residents lined up to express concern about the non-renewal of the contract of Police Chief Dan Watson. News of the closed-door deliberations and contract non-renewal appeared in the South Pasadena Review.

- To help develop a senior housing plan, a special commission is looking at senior housing in Sierra Madre and Monterey Park. Another commission is exploring water conservation strategies, including a tiered rate system similar to Arcadia’s which charges heavy users more per gallon.

- Along with other members of the National League of Cities, South Pasadena is now offering residents a prescription drug discount card. There are no income requirements. The program may save an average of 20 percent off the price of commonly-prescribed medications at participating pharmacies.

Pasadena (Shirley Spencer) The City of Pasadena has submitted a revised housing plan for Desiderio Army Center to HUD. If HUD approves the revised plan, negotiations with the Department of Defense would begin to transfer to the City the very valuable 5.1 acres under the Colorado Street Bridge. Tied to the new Desiderio Concept Plan are rent subsidies for 116 single-room units at the Centennial Place Project (the former YMCA building) to meet HUD's mandate to balance the needs of the homeless. Affordable housing advocates are questioning whether providing funds for rent subsidies can legally be done in lieu of providing the actual affordable housing units.

▪▪ Pasadena Council members have approved a \$3.2 million construction contract for a new 10,000-square-foot urgent care clinic to be built on city-owned property on East Del Mar Boulevard. The clinic, scheduled to open in August 2010 as a 3-5 year "experiment," will offer low-cost, non-emergency room medical care to uninsured patients and Medicare and Medi-Cal participants.

▪▪ Pasadenans for a Livable City, a newly-formed group that includes former City Councilman Sid Tyler and Planning Commissioner Richard Norton, filed suit in December against the City of Pasadena to stop the \$75-million Playhouse Plaza project the City Council approved on Nov. 17. The project includes a six-level, 522-space underground parking garage, with 155 of the spots for public use. David Saeta, represents the Los Angeles-based developer IDS Real Estate Group while the lawsuit was filed by preservation attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley.



<http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/planninganddevelopment/PlanDev/ArmyBaseHomeArmy.asp>

Desiderio Army Reserve Center

Pasadena's Revised Plan for the Desiderio Army Reserve Center

Michelle White

In order for Pasadena to receive the Desiderio Army Reserve Base from the federal government, it must submit an application setting forth its plans to balance the needs of homeless persons. HUD is charged with reviewing the City's application.

After numerous hearings regarding the 5.1 acre site, Pasadena submitted an application to the federal government that called for the parcel to be used as open space and as a site for nine houses to be sold to moderate income households. No plans were submitted to meet the needs of homeless households. All applications that included housing homeless persons on the site were rejected. In turn, HUD disapproved Pasadena's application. Thereafter, HUD granted Pasadena a number of extensions to develop an appropriate plan. Pasadena submitted a revised plan in December 2009.

The revised plan does not create any new housing units for homeless persons, nor does the City agree to fund any services for this population. Instead, the City proposes to redistribute the rent subsidies that HUD previously awarded the City. The Council approved a plan that would set aside 116 of the City's 1,348 subsidies (typically utilized by very low income families with children) and instead award them to one non-profit owner of to underwrite the cost of housing homeless individuals at Centennial Place (the former YMCA building.) This award of rent subsidies is dependent on the developer securing supportive services funding for the project from other sources.

Affordable housing advocates question the appropriateness of the plan on a number of bases:

- The City inappropriately down zoned the Desiderio site in comparison to the properties immediately adjacent to it. It also wrongfully eliminated homeless service providers from its consideration of how the Army Reserve site should be reused.
- Pasadena's revised Desiderio plan does not create any additional units to meet the housing needs of the more than 1,100 persons who are homeless in Pasadena on any night.
- The 1,348 rent subsidies are already 98% to 99% utilized. Households wait a minimum of three years to secure these rent subsidies. Siphoning off 116 vouchers will only increase the wait time for families with children to receive housing.

(continued on page 9)

DOING THE ASK ...for 90 years!

*By Shirley Spencer,
Membership Director*

No, I have not been doing “the ask” for 90 years. Just a way of saying The National League of Women Voters celebrates its 90th birthday on February 14th. My favorite Uncle, Howard Henderson Juhl, celebrates his 90th birthday in June, just to put it in perspective.

“The League Through the Decades

The Founding

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

The 1920's

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA.

The 1930's

The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching change to the League.

The 1940's

The 1944 convention made major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members, rather than a federation of state leagues, and abolishing the department system of managing the various facets of the League program.

The 1950's

The witch hunt period of the early fifties inspired the League to undertake a two-year community education program focusing on the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.

The 1960's

In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing.

The 1970's

The 1974 convention also amended the bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.

The 1980's

The League was in the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982 and contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act of 1986.



New York suffragettes 1912/ lww archives

The 1990's

The League launched “Take Back the System,” a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992.

The 21st Century

The League was instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. The League worked to renew the Voting Rights Act, and filed a number of amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX.

Education Fund and the Overseas Education Fund

In the late 1940s and 1950s, the League established two 501(c)(3) educational organizations that, like the LWVUS, are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, but, unlike the LWVUS, also can accept contributions that are deductible for income tax purposes.

Conclusion

While the League’s programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: **The organization has three purposes to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.** <http://www.lwv.org>

Our Pasadena Area League will be observing its 74th anniversary on March 31, as we were founded in 1936. It is because of you, dear devoted members, that the LWV is still where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. We will continue to work on “**DOING THE ASK**” to keep those three stated purposes flourishing locally.

50 Year LWVPA Member Milestones:

In February 2010, the National League of Women Voters will present certificates celebrating fifty years of LWV membership to Rene Wilson of Pasadena and Joyce Patch of Altadena. They will receive their certificates at League Day, February 4th.

There is an extraordinary opportunity for ordinary Californians to map the future of our state.

The opportunity is now. Right now.

California, like every other state in the nation, will redraw its political districts in 2011 using new U.S. Census data to make sure that every district contains the same number of people. This process is called redistricting, and it happens every ten years.

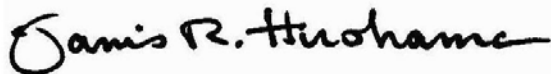
But the 2011 redistricting process will be very different in California. And the rest of the nation will be watching us.

That's because in 2008 the people of California made history by passing Proposition 11, taking the redistricting power from the legislature and putting it in the hands of ordinary citizens. Now the responsibility for drawing new district maps for the state Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization is entrusted to a new Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of 14 voters—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 people from neither of those parties.

Please consider applying to serve on the Citizens Redistricting Commission . . . or encouraging another qualified Californian to apply. As a commissioner, you will help draw fair electoral districts in which voters choose their elected officials, instead of politicians choosing their voters. Applications are due to the California State Auditor by February 12, 2010. To learn more, visit the [California State Auditor's Web site](#).

Time is of the essence. The deadline to apply for the Citizens Redistricting Commission is Friday, February 12, 2010. You must apply online at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Janis R. Hirohama
President, League of Women Voters of California
Education Fund



COMMUNITY FORUM



Access to Impact

Together with its community partners, League of Women Voters Pasadena area will present “**Access to Impact: Using Open Government to Create Change**,” a community forum to take place on **Saturday, March 6** from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Neighborhood Church, 301 North Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena.

Hedab Tarifi, vice-chair of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, is the keynote speaker. Ms. Tarifi was born in Gaza Palestine and raised in Kuwait. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1991 after witnessing and surviving the seven months of Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War. She knows well the importance of democracy and of keeping government open and accessible.

Following Ms. Tarifi's presentation panelists will discuss open government from four perspectives:

- **media**
Larry Wilson, Public Editor of the Pasadena *Star-News*,
- **libraries**
Jan Sanders, City of Pasadena Director of Libraries and Information Services,
- **government legal issues**
Michele Beal Bagneris, Pasadena City Attorney/ City Prosecutor, and
- **civic engagement**
Najeeba Syeed-Miller, CEO, Center for Civic Engagement and Dialogue; board member of President Obama's National Coalition on Dialogue and Deliberation.

After a Q&A session, community members will break out into small groups to discuss their experiences of “open government” locally. They will report in to the group and key learning from the forum will be shared with mayors and city managers in all cities in the League's service area.

You will want to save the date, Saturday, March 6, and be part of this important community forum.



IMPACTS OF THE DOWNTURN OF THE FINANCIAL MARKET ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**By Michelle White,
Affordable Housing Advocate**

The conventional mortgage lending industry has a history of discrimination against African Americans and Latinos. Qualified borrowers of color are denied mortgages or are saddled with onerous terms and conditions. In response to lack of access, a cottage industry developed - subprime mortgages. Initially aimed at minority borrowers, in the recent past, mortgage brokers and Wall Street lenders also have targeted middle and high income applicants. These highly profitable instruments were typically characterized by a variety of elements:

- “Teaser” interest rates, *i.e.*, exceptionally low interest rates or “interest only” notes for initial periods of two to three years
- Steep readjustments in payments after two or three years; routinely typically exceeding conventional lending guidelines and the borrowers’ ability to meet these obligations.
- Substantial penalties for prepaying (*i.e.*, refinancing) loans
- Extremely low or no down payments
- “Statement Only” income verifications, *i.e.*, no proof of income beyond applicants’ assertions, required.
- Loans for 100% and more of the value of the financed property.

Many experienced borrowers and lenders acted recklessly, gambling that the housing bubble would not burst, and too many first time and inexperienced borrowers trusted unethical mortgage brokers who misrepresented facts or committed outright fraud. Fair housing advocates warned that the large majority of subprime loans were unsound and unfairly targeted minority borrowers. Eventually, the subprime industry led to financial collapse and a continuing foreclosure rate. The foreclosures and their connection to Wall Street lending convinced federal and state officials to pass legislation and fund solutions designed to avert a wholesale collapse of the nation’s financial sector.

While subprime activity related almost exclusively to market rate sales of single family housing units, the

resulting financial collapse has impacted the availability of funds for all levels of housing - affordable, market rate and luxury units; rental and for-purchase housing; single and multifamily units.

Funding affordable housing usually requires a combination of funds: *public* (grants and below market rate financing), *tax and other credits* (that non-profits accrue and sell to private entities to finance construction), *private* (conventional funding to fill the gap between the cost of development and what public funds and private grants cover).

When the private housing finance market floundered, there were many affordable housing ramifications: corporations continue to pay less or refuse to purchase tax credits, which, until recently, were the greatest sources of affordable housing funding. In addition, conventional lenders have become very cautious in extending credit, no matters how sound the deals. Although affordable housing projects are, generally speaking, more secure for conventional lenders to lend on than market rate housing deals, there is no evidence to suggest that private lenders are making affordable housing loans in this era of tight credit.

The lack of market rate housing development has ramifications particular to cities like Pasadena that adopted inclusionary housing ordinances, *requiring* developers of market rate housing to set aside units affordable to lower income persons or pay an in lieu fee. In Pasadena, developers of market housing routinely pay fees which have been used to fund affordable housing development. As market rate residential development slowed, in lieu fees dried up. Funding and producing affordable housing through inclusionary housing mechanisms has been further compromised by a recent court decision limiting the ability of jurisdictions to adopt such ordinances.



Members at LWVC Convention in May, 2009

Extra Contributions

Randi Burke-Aguiar
Ann Clare
Alice Huang
Marsha Hymanson
Marilynne Kennedy

Celina Lew
Margaret McAustin
Barbara Nyberg
Kris Ockershauser

Ann Patterson
Janet Preston
Mindy Stein
Cathy Thomas
Janet Wood

In Memoriam

Michael Schiller

(continued from page 5)

- In the proposed revised plan, the City will not fund any supportive services for homeless persons; it would instead require the non-profit owner of the Centennial Place to acquire funding for such services from other sources. Even if the owner were to secure the round of funding it is presently seeking, there is no assurance of long term funding for services for the Centennial Place residents.
- The City's revised plan places the onus for underwriting the costs of providing rent subsidies to homeless persons on very low income households. The City proposes to expand the for sale housing opportunities for moderate income households by nine units and creating limited open space by trading off 116 housing opportunities for very low income families with children against those of homeless individuals.

Pasadena is struggling to meet the needs of the City's 20,000 low and very low income households in need of affordable housing. While the City's revised Desiderio plan slightly ameliorates the housing needs of its moderate income households, it does nothing to address the needs of the City's very low income families with children. According to City of Pasadena and Southern California Area Government calculations, the City has met 80% of its moderate income housing needs and only 14% of its very low income housing needs.

Housing advocates urge Pasadena to use its discretion (i.e., donate city-owned land, adjust the proportion of redevelopment funding devoted to non-housing uses, float bonds, etc.) to create new units for homeless and very low income families, rather than simply reordering which recipients will receive federal resources entrusted to its administration.



MEMBERSHIP FORM



New Member Renewing Member
 Student --- \$15 Individual --- \$70 Individual Sustaining --- \$170 _____
 Household --- \$100 Household Sustaining --- \$200 _____
 I would like to sponsor a member: Name _____
 I would like to contribute to LWVPA. _____
The League is not a 501c3 organization; contributions to the LWVPA Education Fund, however, are tax deductible. (Use separate check.)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Spouse _____
 Street _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ FAX (____) _____ E-mail _____@_____

I recommend the following person for LWVPA membership:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone (____) _____



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OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I JOINED THE LEAGUE

By Rene Wilson

Soon after joining LWVPA in 1960 at the invitation of member Hannah Shafer, I became the League's Observer at meetings of the Redevelopment Commission and then the Pasadena City Board and was given responsibility for re-doing the League's handbooks on Municipal Government and Public Schools in Pasadena. I also learned about the League's special voter emphasis and its issue study/support positions/action program. Between 1963-65 my responsibility was Local Program.

During the next three years I chaired the LA County League's study and action on **Rapid Transit** and spent a year on the Governor's Task Force on Transportation. In 1970 I was chairperson of the state League's 50th anniversary in Sacramento and, as VP of the Ecumenical Council of Churches of the Pasadena Area, I served as co-chair of an overflowing Public Forum **Focus on Education: the Pasadena School Plan** at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium five days before the opening of school and integration.

From 1974-76 I was chair of the League of Women Voters' six-county Southern California Metro Transit Committee. In 1975 a California Senate Transportation Committee member placed a phone call to me during the Committee's recess to determine facts on the League's position with respect to establishing County Transportation Commissions in Southern California. The bill's author had misrepresented LWV's position. The Senator returned to Committee and killed the bill. The following year LWV-supported revisions were made in the bill and AB 1246 became law.

Between 2001-04, during my first term as a national United Nations Association Board member, I worked with UNA-USA VP Ruth Hinerfeld (former President of LWV-US), albeit unsuccessfully, to secure the resumption of UNA's 1983-97 **Global Policy Project**. In this project, members and chapters tried to reach positions for action through local study nation-wide of a single multilateral United Nations-related global policy issue. In 2009 the Southern California Division introduced a UNA-USA Convention Resolution to re-institute the annual Global Policy Project. After the removal of a convention-inserted paragraph and some tweaks in language, it was adopted overwhelmingly. Following the conclusion of this session, a woman came up to me, introduced herself by name and UNA chapter, and asked if I belonged to the League of Women Voters. I said "Yes, how did you know?" and she smiled and said, "It was just the way you worked to get the Resolution passed." What a compliment!