

## CALENDAR

### January

- 3..... Office Reopens
- 5..... League Day—Program Planning**
- 6..... Voter Deadline  
Communications Committee
- 11..... Board Meeting
- 12..... Natural Resources
- 16..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 17..... Voter Mailing
- 18-19..... Unit Meetings

### February

- ..... Black History Month
- 2..... League Day**
- 3..... Voter Deadline
- 3..... Communications Committee
- 8..... Board Meeting
- 11..... Exploring Privatization
- 14..... LWV 92nd Birthday  
Voter Mailing
- 15,16..... Unit Meetings
- 20..... President's Day
- 24..... Flag Day

## January 5, League Day Grassroots Day! Program Planning

### Women's City Club

160 N. Oakland Avenue, Pasadena  
9:30 registration,  
10:00 program starts, noon lunch,  
12:45 afternoon session  
**Make your reservations now!**

### SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

8:30 a.m. to Noon

at Neighborhood Church

League of Women Voters Pasadena  
Area presents

**Yours? Mine? Ours?**

### Exploring Privatization

Join LWVPA members and local officials from many of LWVPA's ten cities at this community-wide forum to learn what municipal privatization really is and what it is not.

## LEAGUE DAY, JANUARY 5 Come to Grassroots Day!

You all have known it as program planning, but we've thought of a new name. We think Grassroots Day better reflects the spirit of what we will be doing on January 5. On that day we—the grassroots of the League of Women Voters—will be letting National, County, and Pasadena Area League leadership know what we think the priorities should be for the next two years. Are there positions that need updating to be relevant in the current political climate? Is there a new topic we need to study because we currently don't have a voice? Is there an important issue about which we need to educate the public? Here's your chance to have your say.

Program, in League "lingo," consists of three parts: program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. The program planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives us—the grassroots—the opportunity to balance pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues.

Currently we are involved in two national studies, one on the role of the federal government in education (almost completed) and one on privatization. At the state level we are beginning the process of updating our position on the initiative process, and we have recently finished a county study on the jail system. All these studies result in positions that will be the basis for future advocacy.

**What's  
★ your ★  
passion?**

**What  
do YOU  
think we  
should  
do next?**

What do YOU think we should do next? On what should we focus? What's your passion? Take some time to review the current National, County and Pasadena Area League positions in your Members Yearbook, beginning on page 19. Then, bring your ideas to Grassroots Day on January 5. We'll have fun and, as in past years, there will be a drawing for "FABULOUS PRIZES." You'll need to be present to win, so we hope to see you all in the New Year. Happy Holidays everyone!

**On what  
should we  
focus?**

—Robbie Davis

**For League Day reservations**, please phone the League office at 626-798-0965 by Thursday, December 29 at noon. Luncheon is \$20.00, including tax, tips, and registration for the program. Please specify your lunch preference when you call: Mexican citrus salad with chicken, skinny chicken, vegetarian plate, fruit plate. Take-home boxes are available for the uneaten portion of your lunch; just ask your server. A lunch reservation not used must be paid for, so if you must cancel, please phone the office by Tuesday, January 3. You are welcome to attend only the program, no reservation required.

# Inform, Empower, Advocate...



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

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

## JANUARY UNIT UPDATE

Each unit has chosen a topic for discussion this month. See article on page 4 for more details.

## UNITS

### BREAKFAST UNIT

#### **Realignment and reintegration of state parolees.**

Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 a.m.  
at Fox's Restaurant,  
2352 N. Lake Ave., Altadena  
Temporary Chair:  
Michelle White  
Temporary Membership:  
Candy D'Addario

### SOUTH UNIT

#### **Clip news articles and bring for discussion.**

Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.  
at the home of Marcia Spira,  
Monterey Park  
Chair: Marcia Spira  
Membership: Ruth Willner,

### EAST UNIT

#### **The Occupy Movement.**

Thursday, January 19, 10:00 a.m.  
at the home of Laurie Cooper,  
Sierra Madre  
Chair: Bea Wolfe  
Membership: Joan Zukoski

### NORTH UNIT

#### **Redistricting update and school libraries.**

Thursday, January 19, 10:00 a.m.  
at the home of Sara Carnahan,  
Altadena  
Chair: Ray Bennett  
Membership: Gloria Reynolds

## INTERNET RESOURCES

### **Smart Voter** [www.smartvoter.org](http://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](http://www.lavote.net) Election calendar, polling places, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials

### **Easy Voter Guide**

[www.easyvoter.org](http://www.easyvoter.org) Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, English

### **Secretary of State**

[www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov) Official text of ballot measures, candidates' statements, maps, dates, election returns

### **CA Legislative Analyst**

[www.lao.ca.gov](http://www.lao.ca.gov) Analysis of all ballot measures

### **CA Voter Foundation**

[www.calvoter.org](http://www.calvoter.org) Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

### **CA Budget Project**

[www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org) Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures.

### **L A County League of Women Voters** <http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

### **LWVC Voter Information**

[www.CAVotes.org](http://www.CAVotes.org) State website that has up-to-date information on voter services and information on state ballot measures.

## Follow the Money

As we move into 2012 and look ahead to a primary election in June and a general election in November, we will again be confronted with numerous initiatives and referenda to decipher. As always the League of Women Voters will provide unbiased analyses in advance of the elections. The California League now offers you a simple way to track contributions to the campaigns, showing how much money and from what donors is flowing into bank accounts, at <http://cavotes.org/issues/campaign-financing-and-disclosure>.

This site provides key links dealing with various aspects of campaign finance and will help you answer the question of who is contributing to, and perhaps hoping to benefit from, a particular proposition. In June there will only be a few ballot measures but this site should be especially valuable in November when a crowded ballot is expected.

—Ray Bennett

*THE VOTER* is available on our website at [www.lwvpasadenaarea.org](http://www.lwvpasadenaarea.org), by e-mail and by mail.

# thoughts from your president...

photography by Gina Long



My daughter, Ruth, was going to speak to her networking business group and invited me to attend. Of course, I went to hear her. I didn't realize that part of the program was for each of the attendees to speak for 30 seconds.

Her subject was a new approach to the "elevator speech" which is an introduction when making contact with a prospective customer.

How does what you do (or your products and services) affect others? That was her question. Her answer was to begin the intro with "you know when..., well I...". Since she couldn't seem to find anyone willing to start, I did. (What are mothers for?)

You know when you get your ballot and you haven't got a clue? Well we are the answer to the thirty-second TV spot. We are the League of Women Voters. We provide the information to help you make an informed decision. We speak on the issues at various organizations, publish a pros and cons on the ballot measures, and are online at smartvoter.org.

Think about starting an introduction to a prospective member with information on what their interests are. As you know, we have positions on many topics. They are as close as your Yearbook. You remember the Yearbook, the yellow pamphlet that you tossed somewhere. You will be amazed how much material is in there for you to learn about and tell others.

In fact, our next League Day on January 5th, will be about the positions we have and how they may need tweaking because of the passage of time. You will also notice how many are timeless, even though written and updated many years ago. We will also look at what issues we do not have a position on and decide whether or not we want to study them. This is the League, informing ourselves; and others.

I hope you will join us at League Day, January 5th, and be part of a serious look at where we stand on the issues.

Sondra

Sondra Hauge  
President, League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Pasadena Area

Visit our Office:  
10 a.m.–1 p.m. • Monday–Friday  
1353 N. Hill Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91104-2611  
(just north of Washington Blvd.)  
Phone: 626-798-0965  
Fax: 626-798-0966  
office@lwvpasadenaarea.org  
www.lwvpasadenaarea.org  
Facebook—"Like" us

## LWVPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

### OFFICERS:

- Co-Presidents..... Sondra Hauge
- .....Robbie Davis
- ..... Sharon Mullenix
- President-Elect..... Marna Cornell
- Past President.....Yvonne Pine
- Secretary.....Marilynne Kennedy
- Treasurer..... Stanley Pine

### ELECTED DIRECTORS:

- Action/Advocacy.....Robbie Davis
- Communications..... Monica Hubbard
- Finance..... Ann Hight
- Forums/Meetings..... Samantha Lau
- Media Liaison.....Jackie Knowles
- Membership.....Marge Nichols
- Operations..... Ray Bennett
- Units.....Candy D'Addario
- Voter Service..... Bonnie Skolnik

### ADVOCATES:

- Affordable Housing.....Michelle White
- Education.....Carolyn Ellner
- Election Systems..... Ray Bennett
- Health Care..... Irma Strantz
- Mental Health..... Shirley Spencer
- Natural Resources..... Sondra Hauge
- Redistricting..... Marge Nichols
- SmartVoter.....Fran Blackwell

The LWVPA VOTER is published 11 times a year and is free to members. Non-members may subscribe at our cost (\$20 a year).

### VOTER:

- Editor.....Gina Long
- Layout/Production...Chris VanDerHorst
- Circulation.....Candy D'Addario

## January Unit Discussions — Four Units and Four Different Topics

**The Breakfast Unit** will be discussing both Los Angeles County's plan for realignment and reintegration of parolees under AB 109 and the Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council, a network of coordinated services sponsored by the Flintridge Center and the Pasadena Police Department. Brian Biery, Director of Community Organizing at the Flintridge Center has been invited but has not yet confirmed.

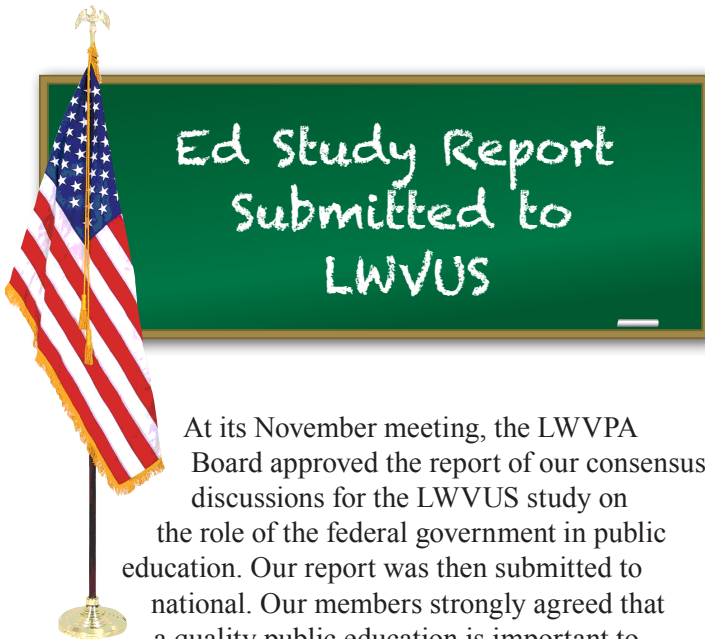
**The South Unit** will be having an open forum. Clip and bring news articles on a variety of topics for discussion. It might be related to foreign policy, domestic issues, education, the economy, local issues, etc. What issues are League members most interested in as we begin the new year?

**The East Unit** will be discussing the Occupy Movement. Bring articles, ideas and opinions on all aspects of the movement such as goals, participants, media coverage, police reaction, political cartoons. The movement has been covered extensively in the news. What impact will it have in the long run?

**The North Unit** will discuss how school libraries are doing under funding cutbacks and Ray Bennett will give an update on all that has been happening on redistricting.

All are welcome to attend. Information about location, date and time are on page 2.

—Candy D'Addario



At its November meeting, the LWVPA Board approved the report of our consensus discussions for the LWVUS study on the role of the federal government in public education. Our report was then submitted to national. Our members strongly agreed that a quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy and that the federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to five. The local consensus reports from all over the country were due November 30. The LWVUS study committee will look at the reports for points of consensus and develop a national position on education. This position will be submitted to the LWVUS Board for approval. Once the national Board approves the position, it will go into effect immediately and Leagues can begin to use it for advocacy.

—Candy D'Addario

## Talk to Your Legislators!

Every year, the LWV California encourages local League members to interview our state legislators. This is an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with us and to learn about League positions and priorities. League members learn about how our legislators can affect our communities and the results of the interviews also help LWVC plan statewide activities.

We will be using the legislative districts as they currently exist and will only start using the new districts after the 2012 general election. Our League is currently part of four Senate districts and three Assembly districts. We share these legislators with several other Leagues, so we will be coordinating with them to conduct the interviews. The interviews, which are a formal process, are generally conducted by teams of three to five League members.

The questions we will be asking this year have to do with the state budget and the initiative and referendum process. We may also ask a question of local interest and, finally, we would like to know what each legislator personally thinks are the major issues to be dealt with in 2012.

If you're interested in being part of the legislative interview process, please contact Robbie Davis. We need to get to work on this as soon as possible after the holidays since the results of the interviews are due by the end of February.

—Robbie Davis

## PRIVATIZATION (Part 1)

A few months ago the Voter ran an article about the possible privatization of a local library system. Feelings ran high. Was this a good thing or bad thing? Would it help or hurt public access to libraries? Would it save money or cost more? How much control of the library would be lost? Would people lose their jobs? Would every decision regarding library operations be based on a profit model rather than what was good for library users?

These types of questions and more will be addressed by the LWVUS study on privatization. The study is not limited to libraries; it will look at the broad range of issues common to the privatization of any function, from water to prisons, from schools to parking meters. The results of the study will not be a straight up-or-down vote on privatization. The subject is much too complex. What we will look at are factors to be considered when government at any level is considering privatizing one of its functions. Sometimes privatization makes perfect sense; other times it's definitely the wrong answer. We need to develop a method for weighing the factors to

**Sometimes privatization makes perfect sense; other times it's definitely the wrong answer.**

determine whether a League should support or oppose any particular privatization proposal.

apply only to government information. If a government function such as water is privatized, the corporation now performing that function is not required by law to reveal its operational information. There's no recourse for an individual who wants to know how money is spent or how operational decisions are made. Also, laws are geographically-bound. A company running a local water district in one state may actually be headquartered in another state with different laws.

How can we ensure transparency when faced with privatization? One way is to rewrite laws to consider "functional equivalency"—i.e., if a function performed by a private entity is functionally equivalent to something traditionally performed by government, the transparency laws will apply to the private entity

as well. Another way to ensure transparency is to put a requirement for disclosure into any contract. If a corporation wants the business, it must provide public access to information about the function it will be performing.

Next month we will look at some case studies of privatization experiences to see what can be learned. LWVPA will be taking consensus in March, so start thinking about what factors are important to YOU when you consider the question of privatization.

—Robbie Davis

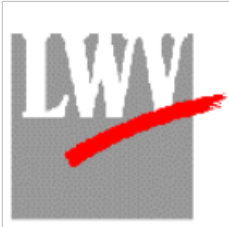
## Planning for the Movement of Goods and People in Pasadena

The City of Pasadena is currently updating its General Plan Mobility Element. Required for all cities in California, the General Plan serves as the long-term plan for physical development of the city over the next ten years. For a city with five Metro Goldline stations, three municipal bus lines, and a goal of people circulating without cars, the Mobility Element update is a key part of Pasadena's land use planning efforts.

The City is taking a multi-modal approach to transportation planning, which is unique: it seeks to incorporate autos, bicycles, pedestrians, and public transit into its infrastructure. To this end, there are four plans that will be used to implement the Mobility Element—Bicycle Transportation Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Local Transit Plan (Pasadena's ARTS bus), and Streets Plan. Anyone who circulates in Pasadena is encouraged to provide public input on the overall Mobility Element, or on one of the implementation plans that is of interest to them.

Pasadena's Department of Transportation ("DOT") is leading the charge on the Mobility Element update and recently gathered public input through workshops. A draft land use map that is being developed for the concurrent Land Use Element update, along with mobility policies will then be presented to the community in Spring 2012. City Council approval and the initiation of CEQA review are anticipated in June 2012. To get involved, go to [www.cityofpasadena.net/transportation](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/transportation) or call DOT at 626-744-7464.

—Felicia Williams



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Inter-League Organization — Beach Cities - Claremont Area - East San Gabriel Valley – Glendale/Burbank  
Long Beach Area - Los Angeles Area - Palos Verdes Peninsula - Pasadena Area - Santa Monica - Torrance - Whittier

## WINTER LEAGUE DAY

### CALIFORNIA'S INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM: ABOLISH, REFORM OR RETAIN AS IS?



**BOB STERN, PRESIDENT**  
**CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL STUDIES**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012**

**10:30 AM TO 2 PM**

**TAIX RESTAURANT**

**1911 W. SUNSET BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90026**

Conveniently located near the Hollywood Freeway and Alva

*There is a \$2.50 valet fee so carpooling is recommended.*

TEL. 213-484-1265

**LUNCHEON - \$25**

Questions: call Nancy Mahr at 310-377-0735



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LACounty** by January 14, 2012

Mail to **LWV/LAC Treasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505**

League Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is January 14, 2012**

Reservation(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25.00

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**After Jan. 14, 2012, Reservation(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$30.00**

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## League Members in the Spotlight

Congratulations to **Mary Barrie** on being awarded the 2011 Citizen Activist Arroyo Verde award from the Arroyo Seco Foundation and the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations (CASO).

Our member **John Van De Kamp** is being honored by the LA Criminal Laboratory as a 2011 Hall of Fame Honoree on December 9th.

## Keeping LWVPA Visible

The Board is reviewing LWVPA's efforts to be visible in the community. Many of our visibility-raising activities occur around election time when we moderate candidate forums and present pro's and con's on ballot initiatives. The community-wide forums we offer on various issues, our monthly programs on League Day which are publicized in the print and online media, and our voter registration efforts also keep LWVPA in the spotlight. Letters to the editor, official communications with city decision-makers, VOTER, website updates and Facebook posts all play a role as well.

Another way an organization stays visible is by holding membership and having an active presence in other community groups. This includes reporting to the other groups what LWVPA is doing and bringing information from the community back to LWVPA through VOTER and reports at Board and committee meetings.

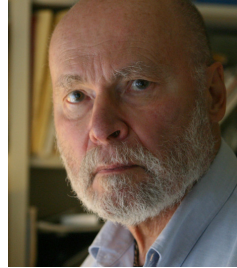
LWVPA currently belongs to these Pasadena-based organizations: Council of Women's Clubs, NAACP, and the Pasadena/Foothill Chapter of the United Nations Association. In addition, LWVPA is a member of five Chamber of Commerce organizations in our service area: Altadena, Alhambra, Monrovia, Monterey Park and Pasadena.

Do you attend meetings of any of these organizations on a regular basis? Please let us know. Are there other organizations in the community that are aligned with the mission of LWV that we should explore? If so, please send Monica Hubbard the name of the organization, contact information for reaching the organization's president or membership chairperson, and the annual dues. A link to the organization's website would be a plus.

—Monica Hubbard

## Why I Joined the League

by Jonathan Lubin



The short answer is that I joined because someone I like and respect asked me to. It was Doreen Schiller, who must have been Membership Director that year.

The long answer is that for about fifteen years in Rhode Island, before I moved here, I had been active in nonpartisan political organizations, and I was missing all that here. I was busiest with the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, and the Rhode Island Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. For the Alliance, I was Board member, Treasurer, and President at various times, and I maintained the membership lists. For the ACLU, I was Board Member as well as, for two years, Chair of the Board. And for each of them, I registered for one year under Rhode Island's very strict lobbying regulations, as a lobbyist, unpaid of course.

In Rhode Island, I found that I enjoyed working on issues, and the League's concern with the nuts, the bolts, and the lubricants of the democratic process appeal to me. I like the idea of working without self-interest to make democracy work, and the League, with its long experience, knows how to do that.

## Membership News

### New Members

Michelle Gavigan  
Pasadena

Linda Paquette  
Pasadena

Julie Giuliani  
South Pasadena

Dorothy Bilajiw  
Sierra Madre

### ExtraContributions

Melody Comfort

Jean Fleming

Beth Gertmenian

Marge Leighton

Gina Long

Laura Malis

Janet Preston



**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS'**  
*Pasadena Area*

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Pasadena, CA 91104-2611

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- Renewing Member
- Individual — \$70
- Individual Sustaining — \$170
- 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/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I recommend the following person for LWVPA membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail to LWVPA, 1353 N. Hill Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104-2611 or click  
<http://www.lwvpasadenaarea.org/join.html> and you can join and donate via credit card on our website.*