



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Voter

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CALENDAR

Mar 10, Wed	12 noon	League Board meeting, at Joan Hogan's home
Mar 18, Thur	6:00 - 8:45 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Supper, Subject: California On the Brink, speaker Dowell Myers of USC; Torrance Civic Center Library meeting room (see page 2 & 5)
Mar 27, Sat	9:15 - 2:00 pm	LWV County Convention, Speaker Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Carson Community Center, (see page 6)
Apr 14, Wed	12 noon	League Board meeting
Apr 21, Wed	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Land Use presentation, Linda Herman's home
Apr 24, Sat	9 am - noon	LWV County Ballot Measure Training, Hollenbeck Palms
June 5, Sat	TBA	PVP Local Convention

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DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL TRI-LEAGUE LASAGNA DINNER

The annual Tri-League Lasagna Dinner is on the evening of Thursday, March 18, at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library (previously Torrance Library).

The focus is **CALIFORNIA AND THE MANY PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE.**

The speaker is **Dowell Myers, a professor in the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development.**

Plan to participate in this event. Look for the flyer in this Voter and register today.

We will be setting up carpools.



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

For those of you who were not able to attend our local program planning meeting, otherwise known as our Souper Supper, we were treated to a variety of gourmet soups that facilitated a lively discussion on the subject at hand. Our thanks go out to Peggy Pages who hosted us and who generously provided the tasty dessert surprisingly titled fruit soup.

We continue to proudly remain a grass roots organization and our discussion focused on recommendations for study at the local, county and national level. Local program was reviewed and it was decided to retain all current Program Positions as well as Action Priorities. Realizing that the Land Use Committee has expanded its focus to the Port of Los Angeles, a third Action Priority was added as follows: Monitor expansion plans for the Port of Los Angeles using applicable Local, State and National land use positions.

At the County level, it was similarly decided to retain all current positions with support for the extension of the Jail Study for a third year. The final decision will be made at the County Convention scheduled for March 27th. (See page 6 for further details.) Nationally, along with supporting retention of all current programs, members felt a strong desire that advocacy at the national level be directed to campaign finance. Our issue for emphasis was: Growth of the Federal Deficit and the directive provided to local League members attending National Convention was to support efforts for a new study titled: The role of the Federal Government in Education and the relationship of the Federal Government with state and local education.

The state of our State continues to give us all great concern. Voters Service Director, Jo-Anne Waller, has provided information on three of the five ballot measures that have qualified for the June primary. However, I encourage you to access the Secretary of State's website where you will see that there are currently 80 initiatives currently in circulation. How many will qualify remains to be seen but there clearly are many that are seeking to change how money is collected in our state, some proposals in line with League's way of thinking and others moving in the opposite direction.

With that in mind, we have focused our efforts on state budget issues and encourage you to attend the Tri-League event on March 18. The issues that concern us as citizens of this great state will be directly addressed by our guest speaker, Dowell Myers of the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development. (See page 5) It is through your active participation that we make democracy work as we advocate for positive change at all levels of government.

Note: The Secretary of State's website is: www.sos.ca.gov/elections

Linda and Nancy

JUNE 2010 STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

As of this writing there are five ballot measures on the June Primary ballot. Propositions 13, 14, and 15 were placed on the ballot by the Legislature. Proponents of Propositions 16 and 17 gathered sufficient signatures to qualify their propositions for the ballot. Propositions 16 and 17 will be explained in next month's bulletin. Below is a brief description of Propositions 13, 14, and 15.

Prop. 13: PROPERTY TAX: NEW CONSTRUCTION EXCLUSION: SEISMIC RETROFITTING.

The constitution currently limits property taxes to 1% of the full cash value of the property. "Full cash value" means the appraised value of a property when purchased, newly constructed, or a change of ownership has occurred. This proposition is a legislative constitutional amendment that would prohibit tax assessors from re-evaluating new construction for property tax purposes when the point of new construction is to seismically retrofit an existing building. As of this writing there is no opposition to this proposition.

Prop. 14: ELECTIONS: OPEN PRIMARIES.

This proposition is a legislative constitutional amendment that would allow voters to vote in a primary election for certain offices without regard to the political affiliations of either the candidate or the voter. It would apply to candidates running for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, statewide constitutional offices and the state legislature. The candidates with the 2 highest vote totals for each office at a primary election would compete for that office at the ensuing general election. Candidates may choose whether or not to have their political party affiliation displayed on the ballot. The proposition prohibits political parties from nominating candidates in a primary, although political parties would be allowed to endorse, support or oppose candidates. Elections for presidential candidates and for members of political party committees and party central steering committees would not fall under this system. Supporters say this proposition would free government from the kind of ideological gridlock that leads to budget stalemates, one-sided elections and control of this state's politics by special interests at the extremes of both political parties. Opponents say passage of the proposition is likely to increase the cost of campaigning, reduce voters' choices, and limit representation for small parties.

Prop. 15: POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974: CALIFORNIA FAIR ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

Prop. 15 is a legislative state statute that would establish a publicly-financed voluntary pilot project for the election of the California Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. Candidates who wish to qualify for public financing for this office must agree to certain spending prohibitions, must gather signatures and obtain \$5 fees from at least 7,500 registered voters. Under the act, lobbyist employers and lobbying firms in California would pay \$700 every 2 years. In California there are 1,239 registered lobbyists, 383 lobbying firms, and 3,153 lobbyist employers. Supporters say this proposition would make it possible for candidates to reject big money from special interests, still run a competitive campaign, and help minority candidates. Opponents say the proposition would impose a tax that would unfairly restrict their free speech rights and unconstitutionally restrict people's right to petition their government.

Jo-Anne Waller

LWV US TESTIMONY

"DOING NOTHING NOT AN OPTION"

CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY IN AFTERMATH OF CITIZENS UNITED DECISION

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters today [testified](#) before the Committee on House Administration in a hearing entitled Defining the Future of Campaign Finance in an Age of Supreme Court Activism. At the U.S. congressional hearing, Mary G. Wilson, the national League president, told committee members that they must pass legislation governing corporate and union spending quickly, in order for it to take effect for the 2010 elections.

"The Court's majority decision in [Citizens United v. FEC](#) was fundamentally wrong and a tragic mistake. But this is the decision of the Court," said Wilson. "Congress needs to respond now, recognizing its own authority and responsibility to uphold the Constitution. Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy."

"The Court's decision in Citizens United upends basic campaign finance law that has been in place for a century. It changes the foundation on which decades of congressional enactments on money in elections are built. Such a fundamental change requires a strong response from Congress and the Executive."

The League supports numerous concepts moving forward in this post-Citizens United context; however, Wilson stressed the urgency in doing something now. "After Citizens United, we urgently need enhanced disclosure. This is the most basic step toward protecting the role of the voter in making decisions in elections," stated Wilson. "It is now possible for corporations to secretly provide funds that another corporation uses to intervene in an election through independent expenditures. This is not acceptable. The League of Women Voters supports strong disclosure requirements for both those who receive election funds and those who provide such funds."

"After providing enhanced disclosure, the next most important step for Congress is to do no further harm. A decision as far-reaching in its implications as Citizens United will provoke a number of proposals that, we believe, could make our election system and government processes even worse," Wilson argued. "We need fair elections, not greater involvement of big money in elections and government. Each of these steps – such as altering contribution limits to candidates and PACs or allowing corporation and unions to once again donate huge sums to political parties – would increase corruption or the appearance of corruption and further distort our political processes."

[Wilson pointed to a number of other proposals](#) – from new controls on foreign corporations to public financing – that Congress should consider in seeking to block corruption of American democracy.

From LWVUS WEBSITE



GUEST SPEAKER

DOWELL MYERS

USC School of Policy, Planning and Development

**SPONSORED BY THE TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
BEACH CITIES – PALOS VERDES – TORRANCE**

20TH ANNUAL LASAGNA SUPPER

**KATY GEISSERT CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM
3301 TORRANCE BLVD., TORRANCE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010

**SUPPER (\$10.00) 6:00 P.M.
PROGRAM 7:00 P.M.**

**FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO
TRI-LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND SEND WITH TEAR-OFF
BY MARCH 11, 2010**

Send to: Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th Street, Manhattan Bch. 90266 Ph: 310-545-1087

Number of reservations _____ \$10.00 per person – check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

League _____



LWV/LAC

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

48th Annual Convention

Los Angeles County Supervisor, Second District

Mark Ridley-Thomas

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has represented the nearly 2.3 million people of the Second District on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors since December 2008. During his first year in office, he shepherded through an agreement with the University of California to provide medical services at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital which is scheduled to open in late 2012. He also persuaded the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to fund a light rail system from Crenshaw Boulevard to Los Angeles International Airport and move up the opening from 2029 to as early as 2016. Together, the hospital and rail projects will generate more than \$2 billion in spending and create over 16,000 jobs.



Luncheon

Saturday, March 27, 2010

9:15 AM – 2:00 PM

Carson Community Center
801 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

Convention Kits for delegates will be mailed to Local League Presidents by the end of February. Additional copies will be available at the meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend.

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Send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 427 E. Walnut Ave., Burbank 91501

League _____

Please highlight delegates names with a (D).

Name(s) _____

Deadline is March 16, 2010

Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 = Total \$ _____

If Postmarked After March 16th
Reservations # _____ @ \$30.00 = Total \$ _____

Chicken Entrees # _____ Vegetarian Entrees # _____ Entrees W/O NUTS # _____

ONGOING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

IMPACT OF THE CENSUS

When the census was written into the U.S. Constitution, it was a uniquely American instrument of political empowerment. For centuries, monarchies and empires have used variations on the census to exercise control and extract resources. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison are widely regarded by historians as most responsible for converting the census into a tool for representative government. It ensures that the governed are fairly and equitably represented in Congress and in the Electoral College. The census has been used for this purpose across a national history marked by territorial and population growth.

The census provides an accurate count of the population for apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives and subsequent redistricting of legislative bodies in the states. Aside from this legislative function, the decennial census influences the funding of many federal programs. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data.

These funds can go toward programs such as Medicaid, education (including Title I and vocational education), social services (including block grants for childcare, rehabilitation services, and substance abuse prevention and treatment), transportation, and many others.

From the LW V Pasadena Area

EXCELLENT PRESENTATION OF THE JAIL STUDY

Vi Lungerich and Betsey Coffman presented detailed background about the County Jail Study at Arlene Block's home February 17. There will be an opportunity for a Go-See trip to a facility for anyone interested soon. Information available from Nancy Mahr.



LA WATERFRONT PLANS - KICK-OFF PUBLIC MEETING

The meeting held Thursday, Feb 11 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Pedro was attended by the Land Use Committee as well as about 300 others. Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director of the port and her staff hosted the meeting. Cindy Misekowski, President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners and Vice President, Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, were present.

The agenda covered current and future activities at both the San Pedro and Wilmington waterfronts. The staff provided an overview of the project implementation including design and completion timelines, operational issues, budget considerations and public outreach channels. As the various projects were discussed, it became clear that many are still in the design phase or that the design phase still has not begun. Projects include outreach to developers for Ports O'Call Village, plans for Cabrillo Marina improvements, now 40 percent finished including 8.7 miles of continuous promenade and public walkways, as well as a makeover of the World Cruise Center. Walking along Harbor Blvd., you can see the new gangways under construction that appear almost ready to be moved into place. We also learned about the \$7 million "Ghost Fish" public art project which will be in the form of a 40 foot tall metal tuna fish to be installed at San Pedro's fishing slips.

Arley Baker, communications manager, talked about community outreach by snail mail and e-mail. The department publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Main Channel, which covers the San Pedro waterfront and Update, a bilingual newsletter for the Wilmington waterfront. The website, <lawaterfront.org>, features current happenings. It also contains a video of this meeting.

After this meeting the staff will create a working group comprised of a cross-section of individuals and representatives from the public and established entities (i.e. neighborhood councils, members of the Port Community Advisory Committee, chambers, clubs/associations, etc.) Response to feedback will be reported through the newsletters and reports to the Board.

Sustainability is a key League issue and their recent brochure cites that sustainable design project features include use of recycled water for landscaping and water features, LEED green building construction, solar panels, drought-tolerant plants and shade trees, and pedestrian and bike connections throughout the waterfront.

Questions and suggestions taken after the presentation included a proposal to identify the stakeholders in the ongoing process and a suggestion to formalize design guidelines so that consistency could be achieved throughout the development.

Cindy Kondon & Linda Herman
Land Use Committee

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS.....

POLITICO's MATT WUERKER has won the 2010 Herblock Prize for editorial cartooning. Matt, who grew up in PV, is the son of long time League member Scotty Wuerker.



A 2009 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Wuerker will be honored by the Herblock Foundation on April 15 at the Library of Congress.

POLITICO Editor-in-Chief John F. Harris congratulated Wuerker for being "at the top of his game and enjoying it more than ever at a moment when his work matters more than ever."

"Wuerker is funny — the essential prerequisite for a cartoonist. But his cartoons work for other reasons," Harris said. "He assumes and appreciates the intelligence of his audience and never forgets, even when his subjects do, the spirit of public interest that should animate the work of important people in Washington."

Wuerker's cartoons also have appeared in The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and numerous other publications.

You might enjoy a look at Wuerker's works at: <<http://www.politico.com/wuerker/>>
Congratulations to Matt who has graciously shared several of his cartoons for our Voter!
from <<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0210/33041.html>>

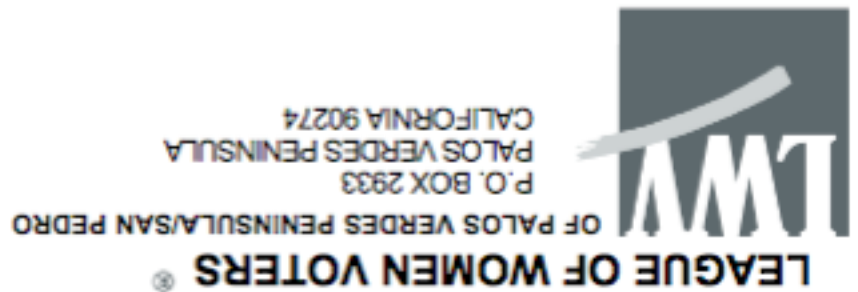
Long-time League member and activist Lois Tarkington died on January 30, after a few days in Torrance Memorial Hospital, following several months of illness at home. Raised in Bakersfield, she graduated from Bakersfield High School, then studied mathematics & psychology at U. C. Berkeley, Univ. of Redlands, CSU Northridge & U. C. L. A.



She worked for the National Security Agency, Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake and later at TRW where she met her husband of 46 years, Booth Tarkington. After earning her teaching credentials, she taught elementary school for LAUSD for a dozen years until she retired. She lived in Rancho Palos Verdes for 40 years.

I served with Lois on both the LWV-PVP board and the Harbor Free Clinic board. When I first joined League she was a wonderful mentor and later became a good friend. I attended my first LWVC Convention with Lois and we shared a room. I will always remember how much fun we had at that convention. She was so smart and fun. I will miss Lois very much, as I am sure many others will also.

Mary Ellen Barnes



* LWV/PVP/SP *

has an excellent, informative website:
www.lwvpvp.org

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& PALOS VERDES ON THE NET

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a public service to our community

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