



The Beach Voter

League of Women Voters Beach Cities
Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

LWVBC ANNUAL MEETING – Joan Arias

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities held our Annual Meeting at the home of Penny Markey in Manhattan Beach.

Officers and Committee Chairs delivered their reports:

- Barbara Arlow reported on the work of Voter Service, including co-sponsoring and moderating three Hawthorne candidates' forums, co-sponsoring with Hermosa Kiwanis and moderating a Hermosa Beach candidate's forum, co-sponsoring and moderating with the El Segundo Chamber of Commerce. In March, Barbara contacted all high schools in our 6 cities about registering their seniors to vote. She projected that in May we will be registering high school seniors at Redondo Union High School and Leuzinger High School. As well, she highlighted that in May the tri-Leagues will co-sponsor a county supervisor's forum with Arts for LA, as well as candidates' forums for the 35th State Senate District, the 66th State Assembly District and the 44th Congressional District. Voter Services will distribute Easy Voters to non-county libraries and senior centers.
- Jan Nathanson noted that we had a good program year with two consensus programs: Money in Politics and Higher Education.
- Henrietta Mosley reported on the Money in Politics program and on the League web site that has changed names and will undergo a revamp over the next year.
- June Eicker reported on the Homeless study, noting that she was impressed with the group that focuses on the homeless especially the LA Mental Health Group. She added that it was "all a question of money."
- Margaret Thelen reported on her monitoring of the California Master Plan and of education issues in general.
- Ruth Hart informed the group that she will retire as Voter Editor after the summer issue and will help train the next Voter editor. She produced five issues this past year.
- Harriet Chase – Social Policy - Chaired the Tri-League Public Higher Education Study Committee that included LWV Beach Cities, Torrance Area, and Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro. She also planned the Tri-League Public Higher Education Consensus Membership meeting with the Committee that took place on February 22, 2016 at the Manhattan Beach

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The League affirms our belief in our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

<p>The Beach Voter</p> <p>President: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Editor: Ruth Hart</p> <p>Copy Editor: Barbara Arlow</p> <p>Production: Mignon Thiem-Murphy Peggy Bartlett Susan Grebe Sunhee Park</p> <p>Labels: Ann Martin</p>

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$60.00 (payable to the League of Women Voters Beach Cities) to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

Name _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Address: _____

TRI-LEAGUE KICKOFF BRUNCH

Every year, the Beach Cities, Palos Verdes Peninsula, and Torrance Area Leagues hold a joint brunch meeting to kick off the League year. This year's brunch will be held on Saturday, August 27th from 9:30 a.m. to noon at The Depot Restaurant (Kimono Room), 1250 Cabrillo Avenue, in downtown Torrance. Registration/Coffee will begin at 9:30 am, with brunch at 10:00 am and the speaker at 11:00 am.

The guest speaker will be Judge Michael Nash, Director of the Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection, who will speak on Child Protection.

The cost is \$30 per person. Send a check payable to LWV Beach Cities by Saturday, August 20th to:

Susan Grebe
629 19th Street
Manhattan Beach 90266
(310) 545-2097

Don't miss this opportunity to bond with other League members while consuming a delicious Depot brunch and becoming informed on an important topic.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Rosenberg passed peacefully in her sleep on July 5th. Gone yet not forgotten, Doris, the co-founder, former president, and board member of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities will forever be a part of Beach Cities. Her family provided us with the following obituary:

We share the sad news that Doris Rosenberg, Retiree, High school librarian, High school English teacher, Assistant to the Fiction Editor of Redbook magazine, Graduate of City College, native of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Officer, Member, and Co-founder of the Local Chapter of the League of Women Voters, passed peacefully in her sleep on July 5. Adored mother of Mimi and Jay, Beloved mother-in-law of George and Lynn, Loved lil'D of Taylor, Cherished aunt of Jackie, Phil, Steven, Kathy, Elizabeth, and Steven, Treasured best friend of Marion, and the honey love of the late Marv Rosenberg...we mourn her passing and celebrate her tenacious passion for life that kept her going these past 7 months as she continued to live through the end of her 88 years of life...enjoying breakfast, scarfing up nightly ice cream, going for walks in her wheelchair, perching outside to see her humming birds, cheering on the Dodgers, watching C- Span and Turner Classics, delighting in news from family and friends, listening to her classical music station, expressing disgust at the election horrors, exclaiming outrage at the daily injustices and celebrating the occasional triumphs in our world...we already miss her and her life force...

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Library. She attended *Meet Your Lawmakers Education Roundtable* March 24, 2016 at Mira Costa High School and reported on the meeting to the Board. Dr. Michael Matthews, Supt. of the MB Unified School District, gave the introduction and a District presentation. Special guests were Senator Ben Allen and Assemblyman David Hadley. Paul Silva was the moderator. She also wrote a recommendation letter for our teen member, Eliza Davis, and worked with Henrietta Mosley to update our League's web address to conform to other Leagues and make it more identifiable from www.beachvoter.org to www.lwvbeachcities.org.

- Susan Grebe – the big news in our Treasurer's Report was that this year we requested a change in status with the IRS, changing from a 501(c)(4) organization to a 501(c)(3) organization. This change, which was granted by the IRS, now allows for our members to deduct contributions to our League on their income tax returns. We have closed out our Education Fund with the State League and deposited the Education Fund money in our checking account. On the expense side, with a few exceptions, expenses were within the budget guidelines or under. Susan also presented the proposed budget for the next year, which we approved.
- Fatima Malik - Fatima reported County issues specifically on the interview with Don Knabe and Sheila Kuehl and on our Facebook presence. She will attend the Pat Brown Institute, the topic of which is the Environment. Additionally, she was the moderator for the judicial forum held by County.
- Diane Wallace - Environmental Report - Diane talked about issues of focus: the closure of the last nuclear power plant, West Basin proposal to build a desalination plant in El Segundo, the use of hydrofluoric acid in the ExxonMobil and Valero oil refineries, the development of the harbor in Redondo Beach and the gas leak at the Gas Company storage area in Playa del Rey. She referenced her resource: <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/solar-water-heating/for-your-home>

The group approved the Nominating Committee Report. Officers listed in the Annual Report kit were approved for the coming year(s).

We reviewed the proposed local position on Libraries and we will continue our review at the Retreat.

Don Brann gave a talk to the group about his experiences as the state-appointed trustee brought in to rescue the embattled Inglewood Unified School District from the financial abyss. Following his talk, we enjoyed a potluck luncheon.

WEBSITE NAME CHANGE

We have changed the name of our website in order to more easily identify it with LWV Beach Cities. Effective immediately, our website can be accessed at www.LWVBeachCities.org. The old location, www.beachvoter.org, will remain available for several months, but we recommend you make the change now.

CONVENTION 2016 - MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK! – Joan LeSage

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 52nd national convention in Washington D.C. June 17-20. More than 700 delegates participated. Local leagues from 48 states, (including Joan LeSage representing Beach Cities) and representatives from Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. were in attendance.

Chris Carson from the Glendale-Burbank league was unanimously elected as LWVUS president. In her acceptance speech she emphasized that during these challenging times she intends to “tap the power of women to create a more perfect democracy”. Chris reviewed the different roles of the national league (core issues, open constituencies, technology), state leagues (build and strengthen local leagues, mentoring) and local leagues (training and education of the public). She highlighted the need for change. The League needs to adapt, diversify, and be nimble and flexible to be a forceful organization in the future. It was also noted that we need to focus on core issues to have the most impact with our available resources.

The League’s program for the next two years was adopted unanimously. It will be a campaign called “Making Democracy Work”. We will be working to engage millions more voters, strengthen laws that govern money in politics, redistricting, and voting rights. Elections must be free, fair and accessible to all!

The League recently hired a new CEO, Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris. She is bringing expertise, fresh ideas, and energy to the national organization. In her thought-provoking address to the Convention she emphasized that the League is at a turning point where it must evolve to address, and be more reflective of, the changing demographics of the country. We must catch up to the technology of today and use it effectively. Wylecia is a great addition to the organization and clearly will be a driving force to our future success.

Business of the League was conducted efficiently. Concurrences were passed on Redistricting (proposed by California) and Behavioral Health Care (proposed by Colorado). Several by-law amendments were offered. After significant discussion the by-laws were amended to provide that membership is open to all persons (not just citizens) who are over 16 (not 18) years of age.

The new slate of Officers and Board members was approved. Also passed were the motions approving the budget for the next two-year cycle and retaining the current \$32 Per Member Payment. There will be a new Audit Committee established, and the budget reporting is being revised to be more timely and transparent.

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Numerous resolutions were discussed and passed. They included gun violence and gun safety, statehood for the District of Columbia, full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, and signing on to the Amicus Brief with the 21 Youth Plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust.

Members actively participated in a range of caucuses that started at 7:15 a.m. before the regular sessions, and ended at 10:00 p.m. These were long days! Issues covered included leadership skills, budget, gun control, Vote411.org, putting a price on carbon emissions, behavioral health, water/climate nexus, and election observer programs.

Numerous speakers provided insights to the participants, including NPR's Peter Overby and journalist Ari Berman, author of the book "Give Us the Ballot". Joe Goldman, president of the Democracy Fund spoke on "Our Democracy- Complex Systems and Major Forces in Play in 2016". Each gave entertaining and thought-provoking ideas. All are strong supporters of the League and its mission.

One of the final agenda items was to thank Elisabeth MacNamara and the outgoing Board and Officers for their tireless work and the significant contributions that they have made to the strength and vitality of the League going into its 96th year of existence!

The final agenda item was an enthusiastic invitation from the LWVs of Illinois and Chicago to attend Convention 2018!

Please note! All the speeches from the convention can be found on-line at forum.lwv.org. I highly recommend you listen to them. In addition, much more detail on each of the issues can be found by going onto this site. Good news is that no sign-in is required. It is open to all!

PRIMARY ELECTION – Barbara Arlow

LWV Beach Cities played an active role in the run up to the June 7th election. We made classroom presentations to seniors at Leuzinger High School and Redondo Union High School and registered 365 students. We co-sponsored four candidates forums with the Palos Verdes and Torrance Leagues. On May 11th the candidates for 4th District Supervisor introduced themselves and answered questions from the audience. Janice Hahn and Steve Napolitano will be on the November ballot. Candidates' forums for the 66th Assembly District, the 35th State Senate District and the 44th Congressional District were held on May 15th. The November ballot will list candidates Nanette Diaz Barragan and Isadore Hall III for the 44th Congressional District, Al Muratsuchi and David Hadley for the 66th Assembly District, and Steven Bradford and Warren T. Furutani for the 35th State Senate District. We purchased and distributed Easy Voter election guides to the El Segundo, Redondo Beach, and Inglewood city libraries. The county library system provided the literature to all county libraries.

MEMBERSHIP DUES – Susan Grebe

It is that time of year again when LWVBC dues notices are mailed out. Unfortunately, when the post office was processing the Dues Notification, some were mangled and came back to me without a sender address, so if you do not receive a Dues Notification by mail, you can request another from me or just mail your check to LWVBC 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. Additionally, our dues will remain at \$60.00 even though we received more than a 20% increase in our per member payment to the State League. Also included in the envelope was the message that **we are now a 501(c)(3) organization which means our dues and all contributions are now tax deductible.**

We are an inclusive organization that welcomes all people, and do not want to deny anyone access to our organization due to financial inability, so please remember that dues assistance is always an option. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to our dues drive, please contact me at rgrebe6072@aol.com or 310-545-2097. Thank you for your continued support in making LWVBC a strong and viable voice in our community.

POPOVERS IN PASADENA

The annual Popovers in Pasadena luncheon, sponsored by the Los Angeles County League, will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2016 at the Women's City Club in Pasadena. Chris Carson, recently elected to be LWWUS President for 2016-2018, will be the keynote speaker. Attendees can select one of three morning workshops: A Voter Service Tune-Up, Seeking Civil Discourse in an Uncivil Year, and Homes for the Homeless. The cost is \$35. A flyer is included with this Voter.

CALENDAR			
Date	Time	Subject	Place
Saturday July 30, 2016	9:30 am – 2:00 pm	Popovers in Pasadena	Women’s City Club 160 N. Oakland Avenue Pasadena
Saturday August 6, 2016	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Annual Retreat	Home of Harriet Chase 2151 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach
Saturday August 27, 2016	9:30 am – 12:00 noon	Tri-League Kickoff	Depot Restaurant 1250 Cabrillo Avenue Torrance



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