



# *The Beach Voter*

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach & Redondo Beach

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## POPOVERS IN PASADENA

On July 29, 2017, six members of the LWV- Beach Cities attended the County League Day that is held annually at the venerable and lovely Craftsman style Women's City Club of Pasadena and includes a delicious lunch accompanied by-- you guessed it--popovers. The featured speaker at this year's gathering was Dan Schnur, Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC, who spoke of the underlying fears, on both sides of the political spectrum, that shaped the outcome of the 2016 election, and how our next generation of leaders can reach beyond them. A summary of his talk is included in this issue of *The Beach Voter*.

After lunch, we had a choice of break-out sessions. Representatives from the L.A. County Registrar's Office set up a model of the new voting system under development that will feature touch-screens that print a paper ballot to be tallied, and Voting Centers that will replace neighborhood polling places, among other innovations. Jerry Ramirez of the Homeless Initiative Team discussed the implementation of County Measure H, passed last March, which will provide revenue estimated at \$350 million a year to be allocated according to the recommendations of a 50-person Revenue Planning committee. Summaries of these two sessions will be included in future issues of the *Voter*.

And finally, Fatima Malik of LWV-Beach Cities chaired a session on technological innovations that can facilitate communications within our organization.

As usual, "Popovers" was a pleasant and enlightening way to spend a summer day!

### NEW MEMBERS

We have two new members, **Danielle Anderson** of Manhattan Beach and **Jeanne Hamilton** of Redondo Beach. Welcome to both, and welcome back **Velma Anderson** of Inglewood.

### WELCOME TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

**Luwam Tedla** is a senior in the International Baccalaureate program at Hawthorne High School. She is ". . . Interested in being a voice for the youth for my school in this coalition of women."

**Samantha Walley** is a senior at Mira Costa High School. She has become ". . . very involved in local politics in the South Bay and in promoting democracy and encouraging citizens to participate in government."

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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 Beach Voter**

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The League of Women Voters 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. The League does not endorse, support or oppose candidates or political parties.

To become a member: Send check in the amount of \$30.00 (first time members introductory rate) payable to “League of Women Voters Beach Cities” to Susan Grebe at 629 19th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

### In Memoriam – Dr. Joan Arias

On August 18 the Beach Cities League suffered a stunning and painful loss when Joan Arias, our Secretary and Action Chair, who was a vital force in so many of our key activities, was taken from us quite unexpectedly by an aggressive form of cancer. Joan was someone of extraordinary vitality and spirit, with keen intelligence (she had been a Fulbright Scholar, among other academic achievements) and the courage of her convictions. She was a leader in the campaign to stop oil drilling in Hermosa Beach. She was an enthusiastic participant in legislative interviews, pros and cons presentations, candidate meetings and high school seniors voter registration. She took copious notes at every event she attended and crafted them, often the same evening, into polished articles for *The Beach Voter*. She enlivened our Board meetings with her wit and her forthright expression of her views, sometimes playing devil's advocate or questioning undue deference to traditional League ways of doing things. And she had a wonderful, warm smile.

She will be sorely missed.

#### A Message from Ron Arias

"Please let folks in the League know that a big party in memory of Joan will be held at our house on November 4th from 1 PM to 4 PM catered by the GUAC taco truck or cart. We hope to have live music, and add the stipulation that no one give sad or weepy eulogies, only amusing or moving or comical anecdotes/stories about Joan. Laughter was more her style. **So save the date.**"

### Election Day — Tuesday, Nov. 7 — in Hermosa Beach and Hawthorne

Hermosa Beach will be holding a General Municipal Election this fall for three members of the City Council for a full term of five years. The terms of office for those elected in November of 2017 have been extended by one year to accommodate the election date change from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, effective November 2022, as approved by the City Council. Seven candidates have been qualified to run for City Council. Candidate statements and filing documents are posted on the Hermosa Beach website at [www.hermosabch.org](http://www.hermosabch.org). Additional information will be available closer to the election at [www.VotersEdge.org](http://www.VotersEdge.org).

The City of Hawthorne will be holding a Special Election on Measure 2683, which would allow the City to collect a new 3/4 of 1% sales tax to help reduce the City's budget deficit, which is projected to reach \$7.5 million in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

## JOIN OUR MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

League members are invited to join our Tri-League\* Mental Health Committee. Following on the membership meeting in April of this year that was attended by more than 90 people, we plan to present another program this spring. At our Board Retreat this summer it was suggested we have a program on Support Groups in the South Bay. I will call a meeting soon to get your opinion on the topic and how we might develop it.

Please let me know if you are interested and/or have any questions. Phone: 310-545-1026 or [hzchase@roadrunner.com](mailto:hzchase@roadrunner.com).

Harriet Chase, Social Policy Chair

## MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Membership programs will take place during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month, i.e., weeks beginning October 23, January 22, February 26 and April 23 – specific dates to be determined by the speakers. The Board has suggested the following topics: Immigration, Water, K-12 Public Education, and Mental Health Services in Response to Special Health and Mental Health Needs.

If you have any suggestions for speakers, please send their contact information to Diane Wallace - [dmbarkwall@gmail.com](mailto:dmbarkwall@gmail.com).

Watch for an event flyer for each membership meeting.

Jan Nathanson and Diane Wallace

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION 2017

By Barbara Arlow

Good news – there will be no California State dues increase. The State officers for the next two years are President Helen Hutchison, First Vice President Gloria Chun Hoo, Second Vice President for Advocacy/Program Joanne Leavitt, Secretary Caroline de Llamas, and Treasurer Jacquie Canfield. Three areas were adopted for Emphasis (an issue/topic adopted by convention delegates as a program item on which state and local Leagues will mutually focus their efforts). **Making Democracy Work in California** includes election reform, voting rights and expanding the electorate, money in politics, and redistricting. **Natural Resources** includes climate change, water, and land use. **Response to Changing Federal Policies and Budget Actions** allows for anticipating and allowing for the flexibility to respond to these challenges as they may arise.

Guest speaker Alex Padilla, Secretary of State, said presently there is same day voter registration at county registrar's offices. In 2018 there will be **automatic** voter registration at the DMV (AB 1461, Motor Voter Act passed in October 2015). In 2020 voting centers will replace polling places in LA county. Voters will be able to vote at any center in the county. Voting will start 10 days before the election and will include same day registration (SB 450).

Guest speaker Celina Lake, political strategist, said that 86% of people who contact Congress are women. Few unmarried women voted in 2016. Married women need to be encouraged to vote independently of their husbands. She spoke about the lack of women in political office and the need for women to run for office.

Guest speaker Chris Hoene, CA Budget and Policy Center, said that 37% of CA's budget dollars come from the federal government. Seven in ten dollars are for Health and Human Services.

### Dan Schnur's Keynote Address at Popovers in Pasadena 2017

By Pat Colby, LWV of the Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro

The Los Angeles County LWV-sponsored Popovers in Pasadena on July 29, 2017 at the Women's City Club, featured the well-informed and often witty, Dan Schnur. Since 2004, Schnur has taught politics, communications and leadership at USC. He has been Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics and founder of the USC/LA Times statewide political poll. In addition to his position at USC, Schnur is an Adjunct instructor at UC Berkeley's Institute of Government Studies and has served as Visiting Fellow at Harvard and taught advanced courses on political campaign communications at George Washington University.

In Schnur's USC leadership classes students are persuaded to think about things in a different way than they previously had. In addition to achieving the skills required for the twenty first century, students need to be taught how to listen to others' ideas and how to work together collaboratively. Today's political system is so polarized that our representatives have forgotten the importance of working with people with whom we disagree.

Ironically, the polarization has come from technology. Holding up his iPhone, Schnur admits to loving the empowerment it provides. Yet by putting on the iPhone ear plugs he separates himself from all others. “I put them in my ears and listen to what I WANT to listen to. If I only listen to MSNBC or to FOX News, I am surrounding myself with the smartest people in the world—those who agree with me. On the other hand, if I carpool with someone who loves hard-core rap music (despite my preference for Gilbert and Sullivan) and we alternate listening to one another’s preferences, both of us are exposed to a cultural perspective that neither of us had previously known about.”

Schnur then used the 2016 election as an example of similarities despite differences among the electorate. He believes the nation’s frustration over political dysfunction was generated less by anger than by fear. He demonstrates this by examining Trump supporters and Bernie Sanders supporters.

Trump’s core demographic group were overwhelmingly white, male and of a “certain age.” They grew up hearing that they need not go to college to achieve the American dream of a house, perhaps a pleasure boat and a secure pension upon retirement. Tens of millions of Americans believed this and they did everything they were supposed to do: volunteered at their churches and synagogues, coached local athletic teams and involved themselves in community projects. Then our country experienced the greatest economic and technical change since the Industrial Revolution. Those secure anchors of the past were torn away as manufacturing jobs disappeared. Though they had followed all the rules; these non-college educated individuals became angry and frightened—all their expectations for a secure, predictable life were gone. During the Industrial Revolution when agrarian work morphed into industrial production, people on the farm knew what to do. They moved to the cities to find employment, suffering the dislocation this change in livelihood created. But the frightened middle aged sheet metal worker of today does not know what to do. He is not prepared to move to the Silicon Valley to take on a high-tech job. He is ill-prepared for change and feels no one is seemly concerned about his plight.

Bernie Sanders supporters included the Millennials (born 1977-1995), a group poised to pass the Baby Boom by 2020 as the electorate’s largest voting bloc. These young people were told all their lives how special they were and they were hard-wired from birth that a college degree was their ticket into a world waiting for their spectacular contributions. Like the Trump group, Millennials did everything they were supposed to do: made good grades, served in third world countries, joined a sports team, played an instrument and became founders of campus organizations rather than simply being a member or its president. Then they graduated in one of the most wrenching economic downturns in American history. And not long afterward, the first person to tell them that they were not so special was the boss at the job interview who did not hire them. In greater numbers than previous college graduates, Millennials live at home with their parents, often working in jobs below their qualifications and burdened with college debt. This group also feels frightened; feeling that no one is listening or attempting to help them.

It was this fear that shaped the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. Many of the electorate were attracted to “outsiders” – a real estate tycoon and T.V. host on “The Apprentice” and a septuagenarian socialist senator from a tiny state who never called himself a Democrat. They represented the extremes of their parties, those most distant from establishment politicians who had failed them. Neither candidate accepted conventional wisdom or played by conventional political rules, making them an appealing alternative to disaffected voters.

In the classroom, Schnur’s goal is not to change young minds but to open them. Students examine the skills of leaders in varied fields from business to sports to determine what makes them collaborative and effective. Schnur facetiously quotes Lyndon Johnson (students, he argues, will take down information if it is attributed to a well-known figure) as saying “What is the second most important thing?”—meaning, what’s important to the other side, thus giving me the understanding I need to get what I want. He also points out that strong leaders do not run from fear; they walk toward it. And the best leaders have come not from the system but from the outside. In the end, each individual must choose between idealism and realism. Not all causes will be accomplished in a single legislative law; yet, if we convince ourselves that we can reach a goal incrementally; that half a loaf is the first step, we move forward. It is noble of the young to define political participation through volunteerism and other actions, but to get the job done, they must step inside the system to bring change. They must listen to the other side, negotiate what is possible and engage in positive, collaborate planning for our nation’s people and our nation’s prosperity.

At the end of class, when exams are over and grades submitted, Schnur tasks his students with what he deems their most important assignment: class progressives are to read the articles of David Brooks and George Will for one week; class conservatives are to listen to Rachel Maddow, MSNBC, for one week. This teacher’s final lesson on the importance of listening to the other side!

## CALENDAR

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|  |                                  |   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>September 23</b><br><b>Saturday</b> | <b>9:30 AM</b><br><b>Noon</b>    | <b>Annual Tri-League Meeting and Brunch</b><br><b>“Water, Water Everywhere—Protecting Against Water Scarcity”</b> | <b>The Depot Restaurant</b><br><b>Kimono Room</b><br><b>1250 Cabrillo Ave.,</b><br><b>Torrance</b>                       |
| <b>September 23</b><br><b>Saturday</b> | <b>9:30 AM</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> | <b>LWV Los Angeles County League Day</b><br><b>“All About Candidate Forums”</b>                                   | <b>Carson Event Center</b><br><b>801 E. Carson St.</b><br><b>Carson, CA 90745</b>  |
| <b>October 7-8</b>                     | <b>All Day</b>                   | <b>Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair</b>  | <b>Live Oak Park</b><br><b>Manhattan Beach</b>   |
| <b>October 9</b><br><b>Monday</b>      | <b>7:00 PM</b>                   | <b>LWV Beach Cities Board Meeting</b>   | <b>Home of Debra Estroff</b><br><b>1909 Spreckles Lane,</b><br><b>Unit A</b><br><b>Redondo Beach, CA</b><br><b>90278</b> |
|  |                                  |   |  |



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