



The VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters, San Bernardino Area

Co-Presidents: Gloria Anderson and Jill Vassilakos-Long

VOTER Editor: Dotti Garcia

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jill Vassilakos-Long, Co-President

The League of Women Voters of San Bernardino is co-sponsoring (with City Clerk Gigi Hanna, The Fellas, the Sun, and the Inland Valley Board of Realtors) a Candidates' Forum on October 8th, at San Bernardino City Hall. The offices that will be on the ballot are: City Treasurer and Council seats for wards 5, 6, and 7. We need LWVSB members to welcome the crowd, pass out and gather the question cards, sort the question cards, etc. If you can help, please call or email Jill (909-649-1310, jvlong@csusb.edu) or email Gloria (glorand@juno.com). We're asking candidates to arrive at 6:30. If you could get there to help at 6:15, it would be much appreciated.

The first two (or four, depending on how you count them) Republican presidential debates were interesting. Would you like to watch the next two debates (one for the Democratic Party's candidates, one for the Republican Party's candidates) surrounded by politically engaged LWVSB members? Come to our debate-watching parties! LWVSB Program Coordinator Susan Longville has offered her home and big-screen television on October 13 and 28 for debate watching parties. She and John will supply drinks; we should bring snacks.

The October 13 debate begins at 6 P.M. (PDT). It will be moderated by Anderson Cooper. Currently, these six candidates are expected to participate: Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, Lawrence Lessig, Jim Webb and Lincoln Chaffee. (At the time I am writing this, Vice President Joe Biden has not yet announced if he will be running. If he is, I am sure that he will be included as well.)

We do not know when the October 28 debate will begin. CNBC has billed that debate as "Your Money, Your Vote: The Presidential Debate on the Economy." The Republican National Committee has announced that they will not have an "undercard" debate on October 28, but they have not yet announced the debate time. Check the website of the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino, or call Susan (909-772-0843) and ask when we get closer to October 28.

Susan is also planning a "Money in Politics" presentation/discussion for both members and the general public. After the presentation, we will take a poll of LWVSB members present to gather information to contribute to the national LWV study. Currently, we are hunting for a venue for this program. If you have any ideas on a good place for a program/meeting, please contact Susan.

Voter Services Coordinator Rachel Clark has done an amazing job in every way. On September 22, National Voter Registration Day, LWVSB members registered more than 100 new voters! Additional voter registration times were held on subsequent dates. Rachel was also the driving force in organizing the October 8 Candidates' Forum. She is stepping down as Voter Services Coordinator for a while. If you would be willing to step forward and take up the work, please contact Jill or Gloria (and many, many thanks to Rachel)

We need observers! If you would be willing to watch meetings of one governmental body, and report it to LWVSB with a one-paragraph synopsis each month, please contact Gloria or Jill as soon as possible.

We look forward to an exciting year!

Jill Vassilakos-Long

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 8---San Bernardino City Candidates' Forum at City Hall. Candidates for City Treasurer, and Council Members for Wards 5,6,and 7.

October 13---Debate-watching party of Democratic Presidential Candidates, 6:00 p.m. The Longville home, 1833 N. Kenwood Avenue, SB 92404.

October 28---Debate-watching party of Republican Presidential Candidates, TBA. The Longville home, 1833 N. Kenwood Avenue, SB 92404

November 3, Election Day. Get-out-the-Vote!

VIAL OF LIFE

Shirley Harlan, former LWVSB Board Member

San Bernardino City Senior Affairs Commission supports Shirley Harlan and Nellie Frazier's project, Vial of Life. To date we have distributed 1000 and are preparing to do another 1000 Baggies.

The Vial of Life is designed to speak for you when you can't speak for yourself. The vial contains important medical information that can assist emergency personnel in administering the proper medical treatment.

There are 4 simple steps to getting your Vial of Life kit ready. The plastic baggie has two decals and the form with detailed information on the reverse side.

1. Fill out the provided form with your pertinent medical information
2. Place the sticker on the front of the plastic baggie.
3. Place the baggie on the front of your refrigerator door.
4. Place the second sticker on your front door.

(Vial of Life continued)

Thanks to Vial of Life, first responders will have the medical information they need to best treat you.

As we distribute these Baggies, we communicate information on Health Care issues and Senior activities as well as listen to Seniors' needs and concerns.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Several of our members have not yet renewed membership by paying annual dues, which were delinquent as of September 1. Perhaps you do not remember if you paid dues early in the summer. If you need to find out, contact Treasurer Val Lichtman at 909-882-6148. If you need to pay, send your dues of \$60 to Val at the LWVSB address, P.O Box 3394, San Bernardino, 92413 . If your dues are not received by the 17th of October, this is the last VOTER you will receive.

What Are the League's Key Issues in California

The issues for Education and Advocacy adopted by the Convention 2015 delegates for 2015-2017 are:

- Money in Politics
- Climate, Sustainable Water and Protecting the Environment
- Election Reform
- Voter Rights
- Minimum/Living Wage

In LWVUS, the top priorities for 2015 are: Money in Politics, the Many Facets of Voting Rights, and Election Administration.

For additional information, <http://lwvc.org/issues>

Barbara Sokoloff, LWVSB's Observer at Board of Supervisors' Meetings.

By Jill Vassilakos-Long



Long-time LWVSB member **Barbara Sokoloff** has served as our observer at the Board of Supervisors meetings for many years. She is known as the woman from the League of Women Voters and is careful to avoid taking a political stance for or against any Board action, but she listens thoughtfully and asks questions to help illuminate the issues for all who attend. Recently the Board began taking questions in writing and responding with answers (this is something of a breakthrough, not all questions have been answered in the past.) Here are a few of the dozens of questions that Barbara has asked on our behalf in the last year.

Q: (on #5 of that day's agenda) What is the project that has risen to the cost of \$10,102,000?

A: The increased costs of \$2, 447,000 for the Pepper Avenue at Interstate 10 (I-10) interchange improvement project will take the total project to \$10,102,000. The project increase will be funded by the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority and the City of Colton, and under a separate agreement, the West Valley Water District. This amendment is to also extend the project completion date from 9-30-15 to 12-28-15.

Q: (on #47 of that day's agenda) What are the major components of the plan? (Vital signs community transformation for 2015).

A: The plan offers a common understanding of key issues facing county residents and potential cross-cutting strategies and policy recommendations for addressing the priority areas of :

- Education
- Economy
- Access to Health and Wellness
- and Community and School Safety

Q: (on #13 of that day's agenda) What are the unforeseen conditions and improvement issues that are costing so much money?

A: The 303 Building Remodel Project contract is being amended because during the construction of the parking structure a number of undocumented and

unforeseen issues were uncovered.

Excavation of parking structure footings revealed elevated moisture content of the native soil that was not identified in a pre-construction soils report. These findings resulted in the revision of grading and foundation designs. Excavation efforts also found abandoned water piping that required inspection and testing along with subsequent removal by a qualified environmental consultant.

These are few examples from the pages of questions and answers from months of Board of Supervisors meetings. **Barbara** brought them to the September Board meeting and we were delighted to see that the Board of Supervisors is taking questions seriously and answering them clearly

Kudos to **Barbara** for asking the questions! She said that people should send her the questions that they want asked. Her address is 3324 Sepulveda Ave., SB 92404, and telephone # 909-886-8604. If you would be willing to take on the task of watching any government Board or Council, and reporting for the LWVSB, please contact Jill (909) 649-1310 or email jvlong@csusb.edu . I will ask you to watch the meetings (either in person or on television or on the web) and write up a one-paragraph each month to keep our membership informed of that body's activities.

VOTER REGISTRATION DAY AND BEYOND

In Jill's article, she mentioned the number of people who were registered on National Voter Registration Day. Several of LWVSB members and friends assisted on that day , on other days and on days at sites scheduled for the next weeks. Rachel Clark recruited the following to work at the registration tables at various sites: Blythe Anderson, Dennis Baxter, Danell Duran, Dotti Garcia, , Valerie Lichtman, Susan Longville. David Mendoza, Velia Marquez, Jim Smith, and Betsy Starbuck. Others may be scheduled to work tables on

future dates. Thanks to everyone who spent time on this valuable project.

TECH CORNER (A Few New Things)

By Jill Vassilakos

Are there any radio programs that you love? How often do you get a phone call or have to run an errand just when your favorite comes on? Many radio shows offer podcasts – you can listen to them whenever it is convenient for you.

How? It depends on whether you want to listen to the show over a computer or a smartphone. If you put your favorites on your smartphone, then you can listen to them when you're on the road, or on a walk, running errands or relaxing. If you are going to be in your office, then you can listen to them through your computer.

To listen on your smartphone, go to a place where you have strong wifi reception and open your App Store Application. Search "podcast." Download the podcast app that looks best. Open the app and there should be a way to "search" so that you can find podcasts. Search for the radio show that interests you to see if they have a podcast. If they do, choose "subscribe." After that, whenever you are in a place that has wifi access and you open your podcast app, it will check for new episodes of the podcasts to which you subscribe and it will download the new episodes automatically. To listen, just open the app and click on the episode you want to hear. If there are many people around, you might want to use earphones.

To listen on your computer, you can go to the show's website and download podcasts if they are available. For many radio shows you can also "stream" the show, which just means that it isn't stored on your computer, but is, second by second, playing from a website. You need to have a speedy internet connection to make streaming work seamlessly. Many shows keep some past episodes up, so that you can download those as well, but sooner or later older shows will be deleted from the website, so if you want to keep a specific episode you need to download it.

Podcasts of Interest:

I searched for political podcasts and tried a half-dozen in the last month. My main finding was that the news and current events podcasts that have been my favorites for years are still my favorites.

The first of these is the Diane Rehm show. The content varies. There are two one-hour shows every weekday. Each show focuses on one topic, usually one that has been in the news recently. Last week's shows were on the discovery of Homo Naledi (the bones of an early hominid found on an archaeological dig), a discussion with an author about his novelization of the last years of the Reagan presidency, an interview with Democrat candidate and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, the immigrant experience in the United States over our history, housing discrimination, a discussion with Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, an analysis of the second Republican debate, a book talk about "The Girl in the Spider's Web," and domestic and international news roundups for the week. Diane Rehm podcasts usually stay available for download for a week. I like Diane Rehm because she does her homework and is persistent. I feel that she asks good questions and keeps asking until she gets an answer.



Another favorite is "Left, Right and Center." This is a half-hour once a week, with pundits with different political leanings, discussing the issues of the week. Sometimes strident, but usually interesting. Podcasts stay available for download for several months.



"On Point With Tom Ashbrook:" This daily show usually includes a political segment as part of the show. It is always interesting, but sometimes a little glib. There are two one-hour shows every weekday. Podcasts stay available for download for a couple of months.

I tried several others; however, there is not room to discuss them this month. I hope this gives you enough information to try some of the above. The column will be continued in the next issue of the VOTER.

