

Your VOTER

(GUIDE TO LWV SAN BERNARDINO ISSUES, ACTION, & INFO)



HOLIDAY SOCIAL FEATURES GOODIES AND CONVERSATION

Marilyn Patterson has graciously offered her home for the annual holiday social on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2 – 4 p.m. The Board of Directors will furnish their creative holiday goodies, punch and coffee. So nourish the body and nourish the mind at League's holiday social.

Conversation promises to be lively. Members relish this opportunity to meet and learn about the interests and activities of other members. So come and enjoy a few hours to make new friends and relish old friends. Marilyn's home is at 3678 Parkside Drive, San Bernardino – across from Arrowhead Country Club parking lot.

'OLD FIRE' BURNS MEMBERS' HOMES

The Board of LWVSB tried to contact members whose homes lay in the "Old Fire's" path, and has learned by press time of four of our staunchest members who have lost their homes when the "Old Fire" raced through northern San Bernardino. Our thoughts and sympathy are with these members' families.



Dorothy and Ernie Garcia witnessed the destruction of their hillside home. Anita and Joe Miller are reported to have hurriedly evacuated from the fire's onslaught. Mary Jo Poindexter lost her lovely home on Foothill as the flames swooped down, and the home of Bobbie and Chuck Terrell, a bit north and east of Mary Jo's home, was lost.

You can imagine what it would be like to lose everything you own in an instant.

If you know of other members who have lost their homes, please contact a Board member. We would like to help, but have not been able to talk to members who most likely have made arrangements to live elsewhere temporarily.

BECOME AN OBSERVER EVEN IN YOUR HOME

---by Barbara Sokoloff, LWVSB Observer Chair

In the comfort of your own home, start watching the County Board of Supervisors' meetings at 9:30 a.m. Monday morning on Channel 3 KCSB –TV as well as, the San Bernardino City Council meetings on the first and third Tuesdays on the same Channel 3 in the afternoon: live 3:00 p.m., replayed Wednesday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 1:30 p.m.

If you are into mathematics, check on the added money amounts in the amendments to contracts; using percent-of-change is enlightening. Another term "change order," is equally sprinkled with dollar (\$\$\$) signs. It is your money; know how it is being spent.

So the public can be better informed, be an advocate for placing the "Consent Calendar" and the "Discussion Calendar" on the Ch. 3 television programs. Write, email or call your representative to get the AGENDA, "Consent Calendar," and "Discussion Calendar," available for viewing on Ch. 3 for the San Bdn County Bd. of Supervisors' meetings and the San Bernardino City Council meetings.

Web address for SB County: <<http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/sbco/AG102103/agenda.htm>>

Contact Barbara Sokoloff, LWVSB Observer chair at 886-8604.

DO YOU HAVE A CITIZEN OF ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATION?

Your Board of Directors is already planning for March's Citizens of Achievement award ceremony. We will be mailing nomination forms to organizations and agencies on Dec. 3.

Keep your nominees in mind and fill out the form that will appear in your January YOUR VOTER. The criteria include having made a significant contribution to the community as a volunteer. The volunteer effort should have been an original effort and/or have added to the efficiency or growth of an existing program.

LWVUS NEWS FROM PRES. KAY MAXWELL

Earlier this month, we announced a new initiative to reform the presidential public financing system. For decades, a key concern has been that our system is skewed toward special interests. Public financing helps to ensure that our democracy is more responsive to voters and less subject to the whims of special interests. My entire statement can be read at <<http://interactive.lwv.org/News/News.cfm?ID=843&c=1>>.

LEAGUE RANKS #16 ON YAHOO'S! BUZZ INDEX: During the week of November 3rd (election week), the League's website was ranked #16 alongside Brett Favre, Country Music Awards and Finding Nemo as one of the most searched websites of the week. The number of League searches through Yahoo! was up 1063%.

ENERGY BILL OPPOSED BY LEAGUE: "After months of secret negotiations, the final energy bill that emerged contains many provisions that are harmful to public health and the environment. Chief among these is a provision that guts Clean Air Act protections... This energy bill will delay relief to those living with dirty air and compromise the health of the elderly, people with lung disorders and children." Read entire statement at <<http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=4159031&type=CO>>



JOIN THE LEAGUE'S GRASSROOTS LOBBY CORPS: As a subscriber, you will receive e-mail lobby requests from the League for quick, targeted and sometimes last minute lobbying on priority issues before critical congressional votes. Subscribe at <<http://interactive.lwv.org/Team/Member.cfm>>

OMB WATCH ASKS FOR YOUR INPUT RE- IMPORTANT GOV-DOCS

As part of an effort to fight increased government secrecy, a group of government document librarian specialists known as OMB Watch, would like your help in identifying,

- (1) the ten or twenty government documents -- or categories of documents -- you would most like to see the government make available to the public*
- (2) problems you have faced finding government information*



Send your ideas to <info@openthegovernment.org>.

OMB Watch is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting government accountability and citizen participation in public policy decisions. This mission centers on four main areas: the federal budget; regulatory policy; public access to government information; and policy participation by nonprofit organizations. Located in Washington, D.C., OMB Watch was founded in 1983 to lift the veil of secrecy shrouding the powerful White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The organization has since expanded its focus to include the substantive areas that OMB oversees.

LWVSB WEBSITE LINKING
TO ONLINE 'YOUR VOTER' <www.lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org/>
or find site via google

WHAT IS A FILIBUSTER?

Because filibusters are in the news, you may want to know more about filibusters. The word filibuster comes from "filibusteros," an old word for pirates. A filibuster is basically an extended debate in the Senate, which has the effect of preventing a vote, since a vote can only occur after a debate ends. It is used exclusively in the Senate because (unlike the House) Senate rules contain no motion to force a vote. Individual Senators filibuster simply by refusing to

yield the floor--essentially, they just continue to talk about whatever they can for as long as they can. A filibuster can be ended by a two-thirds majority vote called a "cloture."

This is a good quick overview of the history of the word "filibuster." It is in point-form and includes two mildly comical illustrations.

<http://www.wordphiles.info/image-word-unit1/word-image8.html>

A good general overview of filibustering in history.
<http://www.thisnation.com/question/037.html>



This is another overview of the filibuster, which is a bit more concise and explains the events that introduced cloture as a method of ending filibusters.

http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Filibuster_Clature.htm

--from website *MoveOn.org*

UPDATE ON PATRIOT ACT

The House of Representatives on Nov. 20 voted 264 affirmative and 163 against to approve the conference report on fiscal 2004's budget for U.S. intelligence agencies reported at approx. \$40 billion. HR 2417 drew criticism over its expansion of federal investigative powers in terrorism probes. It broadens the definition of businesses whose records can be seized without a court order. Local legislators voting for HR 2417 include: Lewis, Calvert, Bono, and Issa. Voting no: Baca.



Meanwhile back at the ranch Attorney General Ashcroft marked the two-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11 by launching a national publicity tour to sell Americans on the USA Patriot Act. The act is already law, and when it came to a vote just six weeks after the 9/11 attacks only a single senator, Russell Feingold, and sixty-six members of the House voted against it.

Ashcroft's national tour will not address the public. His speaking engagements are all before closed audiences, primarily law-enforcement officers. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), greatly expanded by the Patriot Act, allows the government to conduct secret searches of "foreign agents" in criminal investigations without establishing probable cause of criminal activity, which the Fourth amendment generally requires before a warrant can be issued. The ACLU and the Center for Constitutional Rights recently filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of parts of the act, and the February leak of a Justice Department draft of "Patriot Act II" led to widespread criticism.

LWVSB THANKS OFFICE DEPOT FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdn 92401, (909) 888-8525
Senator Dianne Feinstein, 750 B St., San Diego 92101, (619) 231-9712
Representative Jerry Lewis, Rayburn Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 862-6030
Representative Joe Baca, Longworth Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 885-2222
State Senator Jim Brulte, 10681 Foothill, # 325, Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 466-9096
State Senator Nell Soto, 215 N. D, #101, SanBdn, (909) 3813832
Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde, #108C, Montclair, (909) 621-7483
Assemblyman John Longville, 201 N. E, #205, San Bdn, (909) 388-1413
Bob Dutton, 8577 Haven Ave. #210, Rancho Cucamonga 91730, (909) 466-4180
Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy, 135-A W. Lemon Ave., Monrovia 91016 1-888-377-2212

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- * **YES, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters as a part of your voice for citizens and force for change. I enclose: (see choices that follow)**
- * **\$50 One Year individual membership**
- * **\$75 Household (for one year membership, 2 members sharing an address)**
- * **\$40 Student membership (one year)**
- * **I'm unable to join the League at this time but enclose a Contribution of \$ _____**
- * **Please send me more Information.**

NAME/NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: DAY/EVENING _____ / _____ EMAIL _____

**Please make checks payable to League of Women Voters and return with this application form to:
League of Women Voters, San Bernardino, 568 No. Mountain View #150, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1218**

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

LWV of San Bernardino Board of Directors

Vice President	Gloria Anderson	(909) 338-4163
Secretary	Lenore Schon	(909) 886-7663
Treasurer	Ruth Petrucci	(909) 883-5991
Director Voters Service		
Director Observer Corps	Barbara Sokoloff	(909) 886-8604
Director Reproductive Choice	Susan Nieblas	(909) 337-6564
Director VOTER Editor	Marion Vassilakos	(909) 864-3805
Membership Director	Margaret Rodgers	(909) 882-7471
Director Spec. Project	Micaela Cruz	(909) 887-9296
World Trade/UN Studies, Off Bd. Dir.	Katharine Roberts	(909) 886-1983
Website Off Board Director	Jill Vassilakos-Long	(909) 863-1450
VOTER Distribution Off Board Dir.	John Weininger	(909) 885-2222

Alex Sharp (909) 862-8851, Mary Colvin (909) 864-5539; Jenny Overton (909) 883-9801, Louise Thompson; Nominating Committee: Esther Streater, Bobbi Terrell, Teresa Parra, Barbara Sokoloff, Margaret Rodgers

Abbreviations: LWV -League of Women Voters; SB -San Bernardino; LWVC – LWVCalifornia;; SBCo – San Bernardino County; CFAC – Calif. First Amendment Coalition

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "Here each individual is interested not only in his own affairs, but in the affairs of the State as well; even those who are mostly occupied with their own business are extremely well-informed on general politics; this is a peculiarity of ours: we do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business; we say that he has no business here at all." -- from *Pericles' funeral oration* (Thucydides)

OLDIES BUT GOODIES: As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his cell phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 10. Please be careful!" "It's not just one car," said Herman. "It's hundreds of them!"

CALENDAR

Dec. 3 (Wed.) Board Meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bd. Room, 568 Mtn. View Ave., SB
Dec. 6 (Sat.) Holiday party and conversation, 2 – 4 p.m., Marilyn Patterson's 3678 Parkside, SB
Jan. 13 (Tues.) Highland recall election
Jan. 14 (Wed.) Board Meeting, 1 p.m., Krueper Bd. Room, 568 Mtn. View Ave., SB
Every Mon., Tues., Wed., or Saturday – See inside on becoming an observer

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SAN BERNARDINO
568 No. Mt. View Ave. Ste. 150
San Bernardino, CA 92401

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

December 2003

YOUR VOTER

