

# Your VOTER

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

## WELCOME TO CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT MARCH 19

The curtain goes up on LWVSB's 30<sup>th</sup> annual Citizens of Achievement gala at the County government center on Sunday, March 19, from 2 – 4 p.m. Over 600 community volunteers have been recognized by the LWVSB for their accomplishments since the League launched this annual celebration. The purpose is to recognize individuals who have made a difference in their community. The certificate says that the award is presented "in recognition of your contributions which improve the quality of life in our community."



Following the reception in the foyer, honorees will be escorted into the Supervisors' auditorium where they will be introduced and presented with certificates and plaques. Honorees are:

**From San Bernardino:** Kim Carter: Provides transitional housing and services for women who have been in prison through her Time for Change Foundation

Micaela Cruz: Past president of LWVSB. Has been involved in youth and Hispanic community activities..

Rosemary Martin: Assistance League volunteer. Nominated with Elsa Carlton for work with dental clinic and Operation School Bell.

Timothy & Loretta Martin: San Bernardino Symphony Guild and arts community volunteers.

Amparo Olguin: Community volunteer and role model for youth for over 30 years in Hispanic community. Recently became executive director of Home of Neighborly Service.

Terrance & Marqus Stone: Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy. Gang intervention and violence prevention. for low-income youth.

Christian Tobar: Electric Avenue greenbelt/historic site project. Community Redevelopment Alliance - uniting neighborhood associations for improvement -- grassroots efforts.

**From Highland:** Georgia Bush: Foster parent for past 10 years, volunteer for travel club.

Wilbert & LaTanya Greer, Teachers: Founded Malcolm X Saturday Academy for African American youth. Building youth leadership.

**From Rialto:** Joanne Gilbert, Rialto school board member: Active in community organizations. Family education program. Black history - historical society.

Judy Roberts, Rialto Police Dept. volunteer: Started Coffee with a Cop program.

Deborah Robertson, Rialto City Council member: Involved in programs for children and young adults. Fundraiser for youth programs.

**From Redlands:** Jane Roberts: Co-founder of 34 Million Friends to raise money for United Nations family planning programs.

**From Rimforest:** Laura Gonzales: Active in Kiwanis. Started programs for at risk youth.

## SUNSHINE WEEK DIALOGUE FEATURED MARCH 13

A panel discussion on open government will take place Monday, March 13, in Washington, DC and will be beamed to viewers at Pasadena Public Library's beautiful central library, 205 E. Walnut St., from 10 – 11:30 a.m. PST. The venue is reachable via Metrolink and the Gold Line. For more information contact Sue Ewells at [sewells@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:sewells@cityofpasadena.net) or (626) 744 4066. Panelists include Thomas Blanton, Thomas Susman, and Barbara Petersen. For more info, go to <[www.openthegovernment.org/articles/subarchive/85](http://www.openthegovernment.org/articles/subarchive/85)>.

## "Connecting with YOUR Communities" Workshop -- March 25

California's population is the most diverse in the country and it is becoming more so every year. How can local groups reach and meet the civic and voter education needs of California's rapidly changing population? You'll find the answers to this critical question just in time for the June 2006 Primary Election at special League training workshop, "Connecting With YOUR Communities," taking place in Riverside this month.

The workshops will feature:

- An overview of state and local demographics
- How to connect with audiences who speak different languages than you do.
- How to develop meaningful partnerships with organizations already reaching the diverse and underserved members of your community.



- How to use the *Easy Voter Guide* and other free resources to make new connections with community based organizations and local media.

All League members are invited to participate, and the workshops are FREE. Reserve your space today: RIVERSIDE--SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 10 a.m.--2 p.m., March Field Air Museum, 22559 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside. For reservations, contact: Gloria Anderson, [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com) or 909-338-4163. For general information about the workshops, contact the LWVC office at 916-442-7215. These special workshops are presented by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund in partnership with local Leagues and with the support of the James Irvine Foundation.

## Funding and accountability--can California get it right?

The annual EdSource forum takes place in Pomona Thursday, March 16. It's a balancing act: holding schools accountable for results and making sure they have the resources and support they need to do the job. Hear top state leaders, local superintendents, and researchers discuss the issues involved at the 29th annual EdSource Forum on Thursday, March 16, in Pomona. For more information and to register for the EdSource Forum, visit <[www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org)> or call 650-917-9481.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS  
FOR SPEEDY CONVENIENT COMMUNICATION  
SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com)

## PREZ SEZ

Two areas of concentration this month as far as League activities are concerned are OPEN GOVERNMENT and HONORING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS.

We will be "Looking for the Sunshine" and raising public awareness of lack of openness in government during this month. LWVUS is presenting a teleforum entitled "Sunshine Week 2006: Are We Safer in the Dark?" on March 13 to kick off Sunshine Week. (See article page one.)

Invitations to our big event of the year, the Citizens of Achievement reception and presentation, have gone out. Thanks to Fifth District County Supervisor [Josie Gonzales](#), we will be holding it at the County Government Center again. And once again, we

have found many individuals (19) who make a difference. And THANK YOU to all of you who help to make this a success year after year, especially Board Members.



Looking ahead, we have started planning for our 51st Annual Meeting. The Board would like to know what you think about holding it on a week night instead of a Saturday. You will be receiving a questionnaire with your new Membership Directory. A big THANK YOU to [John Weininger](#) for this badly needed update and publication of the membership roster. Incidentally, we currently have 85 members.

## BOARD BRIEFS

The Board of Directors

- has decided to participate in Sunshine Week activities March 12-18.
- is considering holding the Annual Meeting on a week night.
- is considering changing the name of our League to reflect wider membership.
- has been asked to judge student projects on County History Day - March 25.
- is co-sponsoring an outreach workshop on using the Easy Voter Guides on March 25

## WHAT IS OPEN GOVERNMENT AND WHY WE CARE

Our system of government is based on the premise that government is by and for the people, and is accountable to them. Yet it was not until President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act into law on July 4, 1966, that the rights of the public to government information and decision-making were spelled out.



cases, local governments. (At our October meeting, [Cassie MacDuff](#) enlightened us about California's laws.) Generally, they declare that all records and meetings are open unless certain specified exemptions apply. Openness in government encompasses two basic concepts: public records and public meetings. The general notion is that everyday people have the right to know what their government is doing.

Similar laws, often known as "sunshine" laws" or public records laws, have been passed by all 50 states and in some

However, our nation's access laws are only as good as we, the people, demand that they be. Knowledge of what is legally accessible and how to obtain such data is essential to keeping our rights alive. The 21st century presents new opportunities and challenges to the free flow of information. (San Bernardino County has recently approved a website that is intended to afford quick access to certain information and records.) However, privacy exemptions exist at all levels to protect information that is not relevant to the public domain, so privacy sometimes becomes an excuse for hiding information that is clearly in the public interest.

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the assumption of openness has been turned into a predisposition at the federal level to withhold information- - even when the information involved is not secret or directly related to homeland security. Ironically, federal spending has increased for withholding, not disclosing, information. In addition, the federal



government has significantly increased the number of secret documents created since 2000, while overseeing a significant reduction of document pages being classified. A new category Sensitive But Unclassified has been established, placing documents so labeled to lie in a sort of purgatory out of reach of FOIA requests. Also selected documents committed to online availability have simply disappeared. ---from the *Sunshine Week Resource Guide & ALA, & OMBwatch*.

Footnote: LWVSB will continue to focus our concerns about open government on local government, particularly on county government which has been struggling to regain the public's trust after years of corruption and scandal. Full disclosure of all county records and recognition that public perception of elected officials' actions, whether required by law or not, will determine whether public confidence in county government is restored, and we will be watching. ---  
*Gloria*

**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, 201 No. E St., San Bernardino, 92401 or 328 Cannon Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 (909) 885-2222
- State Senator, Bob Dutton, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #340, Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 4664180
- State Senator Nell Soto, 215 N. D, #101, SanBdn, (909) 3813832
- Assemblywoman Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Palo Verde, #100B, Montclair 91763, (909) 621-7483
- Assemblyman Joe Baca Jr., 201 N. E, #205 92401, San Bdn, (909) 388-1413
- Assemblyman Bill Emerson, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #325, Rancho Cuc 91730 (909) 466-9096

**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

**LWVSB THANKS HARPER'S PRINTING  
 FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'  
 Harper's, 1956 No. E St., LWV exclusive printer and copy shop**

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

President	Gloria Anderson	(909) 338-4163
Vice President/Program	Susan Nieblas	(909) 338-8260
Secretary	Catheriner Meister	(909) 825-6568
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Director/ no portfolio	Micaela Cruz	(909) 887-9296
Director Publicity	Ann Knickerbocker	(909) 822-8625
Membership Director		
WEB MASTER	Jill Vassilakos-Long	(909) 880-7541
VOTER DISTRIBUTION	John Weininger	(909) 885-2222
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Dotti Garcia, Marilyn Patterson from general membership, Susan Nieblas board member		

### CALENDAR

March 13 (Mon.)	Sunshine Week Dialogue, 10 a.m., via satellite link to Washington , DC, presented at Pasadena Public Library, 205 E. Walnut, Pasadena
March 19 (Sun.)	Citizens of Achievement recognition, 2 – 4 p.m., SB County Govt. Center, San Bdn.
March 25 (Sat.)	<b>Easy Voter</b> Connecting with Your Community Workshop, March AFB, contact Gloria 338-4163
March 25 (Sat.)	LWV members judge student projects for County History Day, Fontana –call Gloria to participate.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself within."---*Will Durant.*

**EARLY BIRDS:** *Your Voter is available online a week early at <[www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/lwvsanbernardino/](http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/lwvsanbernardino/)>*

**League of Women Voters of San Bernardino  
568 No. Mountain View Ave.  
San Bernardino, CA 92401**

**March 2006**

**Dated Material**

*Who Are the Honorees? See page 1*

*When and What is Sunshine Week? See pages 1-3*

**YOUR VOTER**

