

# Your VOTER

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

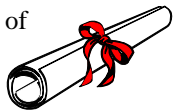
## CITIZENS OF ACHIEVEMENT GALA PLANNED FOR APRIL 27

Our annual recognition of residents whose volunteer work has benefited the community in a significant way is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. Again LWVSB has been able to secure the venue, the County Government Center, through the office of Supervisor Jose Gonzales.

League's Board has been contacting organizations, agencies and clubs in the area and asking them to nominate someone for the honor. If you missed nominating a candidate, please go to our website and download a nomination form and contact Gloria before March 19. Included in this VOTER is a form requesting your response to how you plan to help with this annual event. We really appreciate any help you can give and the sooner you respond, the better.

*Congratulations!*

You will be receiving an invitation in the mail in a few weeks with a request that you RSVP. One more thing about use of the funds, this year we are giving donors the option of contributing to the Ed Fund (tax deductible) which can now be drawn upon for PROS AND CONS, sponsor candidate forums and voter education events.



The Citizens of Achievement event grew from LWVSB's early rent replenishment party known as the backyard soiree. This festivity morphed into a more elaborate fund raiser when former president, Marilyn Bonney, suggested we focus the occasion on recognizing community volunteers. At that time there were few organizations who regularly feted those who helped improve the quality of life in their communities. Hence, in 1975, LWVSB began holding the C of A in spacious verdant backyards of members. (Your editor remembers one ceremony that was interrupted when automatic sprinklers occasioned a brief shower and doves released during the awards did what birds do.) From those garden venues we moved to various accommodating indoor halls, where hot hors d'oeuvres and champagne were served. Soon the hall rental prices increased, necessitating a different location. League owes a huge thank you to Supervisor Jose Gonzales who has arranged for LWV to hold the current celebrations at the County Government Center.



## LOOKING FOR THE SUNSHINE

The League of Women Voters has been an active champion of openness in government throughout our history. Our principles include the requisite that "government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding public meetings and making public records accessible."

Sunshine Week, which is March 16-22, is an educational effort that aims to turn the spotlight on transparency in government information and decisions that may affect the public and how to access that information.

The precise rights of the public in terms of access to government information and decision making were not spelled out until the 1960s and '70s. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that has been in the news lately on July 4, 1966, codifying what the public has a right to know, and how they can exercise that right to obtain government-held information. The Sunshine Act, passed in 1976, focused on public access to



government meetings, but it contains exemptions for certain kinds of information and official sessions, sometimes resulting in challenges to the legality of the reason for closed sessions. In addition, states have laws. California has the Public Records Act and the Brown Act.

The general notion is that everyday people have the right to know their government is doing. Whether it is to access the deliberations of elected official, track environmental hazards affecting local drinking water, or simply attend government meetings on issues of interest, open government rules afford people the right to attend public meetings and have access to public records.

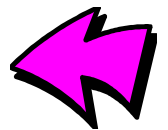
As you probably know, San Bernardino residents can monitor city government on Channel 3, and San Bernardino County is faithfully "watch-dogged" by League member Barbara Sokoloff. If you are interested in being an observer, please contact me. --- Gloria Anderson [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com)

## PREZ SEZ

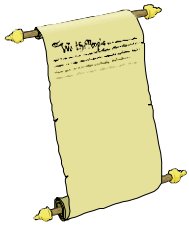
Looking backward and forward.

Since my last message to you, we completed our immigration study in January and sent our consensus report to LWVUS. The committee will then compile the reports from the hundreds of Leagues that submitted them and submit the proposed position on immigration for consideration by delegates to the National Convention in Portland, Oregon in June.

We also worked with the Social Justice Coalition to educate voters and get out the vote in selected precincts where voter turnout has been low, and we will be starting to mobilize for the June election soon. We welcome members to participate with the Coalition.



Looking to the future, we have started preparing for the Citizens of Achievement awards. Letters seeking nominations have been sent out, and we have again secured the County Government Center for the reception and awards ceremony that will be held on Sunday, April 27. We appreciate any help you can give. (See the enclosed form.) Nominations may have closed by the time you get this (March 15); but if you have a nomination, please contact me as soon as possible and we may be able to arrange an extension. And by the time you get this, Sunshine Week will be here. (See the related article.) Also, look for an op-ed in The Sun during that week. Be sure to mark your calendars for our 53rd Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 7. You won't want to miss this one! More details later. Until next time... *Gloria Anderson* [glorand@juno.com](mailto:glorand@juno.com) 338-4163



## LWVC ADVISES 'NO' ON 98 AND 'YES' ON 99

The LWVC Positions on June 2008 Ballot Measures:

The June 3, 2008 ballot features two propositions on the subject of eminent domain. The first, Proposition 98, The California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act, is similar to Proposition 90, which the LWVC

opposed on the November 2006 ballot. However, it goes much farther in limiting the ability of public agencies to acquire land to provide water resources, to regulate land use, to protect natural resources, and even to continue rent control laws. The League OPPOSES Proposition 98, and has signed the ballot argument against the measure. Any League

member wishing to work on the campaign should contact Meghan Callahan via email or by calling 916-443-0872.

Proposition 99, The Homeowners Protection Act, simply addresses a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision by clarifying that single-family occupied properties may not be condemned for transfer to other private parties. It reinforces the right of local governments and others to regulate land use and to acquire property for valid government purposes. The League SUPPORTS Proposition 99 and signed the ballot argument in favor of the measure. For more information visit our Web site.

## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP WITH STUDENT GOVT. ELECTIONS

We are talking with Crafton Hills student government about providing services for their student elections on Tuesday, April 15 and Wednesday, April 16, so we need members to help out on those two days. Hours can be negotiated. Let me know of your interest as soon as possible. It is an extra source of income that helps out our treasury, so please help. *Contact Gloria Anderson*



## LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS COMING UP

Each year, League members interview their state legislators, giving the League and legislators a chance to exchange ideas before we focus on specific legislation. This spring, the primary legislative focus for both the League and our representatives at the Capitol is the state budget. We will be exploring with them the equitable, adequate funding of major state programs and the need to reform the budget

process. We will also ask them about their priorities and what they see as major issues they expect to address. This year, in addition to Senator Gloria Negrete-McLeod and Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter, we have been asked to interview Assemblymember Bill Emmerson. No dates have been set at this writing.

## REDISTRICTING MEASURE REVS UP FOR NOV. ELECTION



Former State Controller Steve Westly joins Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as co-chair of the VOTERS FIRST redistricting campaign. View the press announcement <http://ca.lwv.org/>. Join these two prominent Californians in getting real redistricting reform on the ballot. All League members will receive a four-signature initiative petition and return envelope. It's easy to get just three signatures besides yours. Return the petition to the LWVC office. Then ask for more by contacting Margaret Young. Join volunteers all over California who are working to make reform of the broken redistricting process happen. Find out the latest news at the official campaign Web site for California

Voters FIRST: <http://votersfirstca.com/>

## HOW BIG IS YOUR FOOTPRINT?

Are you treading lightly? Or are you wearing galoshes? We all have considerable discretion in setting the size of our environmental footprints including the size of our personal carbon footprints. Learn more by reading *Carbon Off Sets An Evolving Trend* by LWVC Energy Program Director Jane Turnbull on LWVC web site.

Membership in LWV is a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and to providing non biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident's family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters.



- \* \$50 One Year individual membership, \$75 household membership, \$40 student membership
- \* Please send me more Information.

NAME/NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### LWV SAN BERNARDINO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Gloria Anderson, Vice President- Susan Nieblas, Secretary – Kim Carter, Treasurer – Ruth Petrucci, Director Voter Services – John Longville, Director Education/Youth – Marilyn Patterson, Director Observers – Barbara Sokoloff, Director Voter newsletter – Marion Vassilakos

#### KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush, The White House, Washington, DC 20500  
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-2841  
Senator Barbara Boxer, 201 No. E St., San Bdn 92401, (909) 888-8525  
Senator Dianne Feinstein, 11111 Santa Monica Blvd #915, LA, CA 90025, (310) 914-7300  
Representative Jerry Lewis, 1150 Brookside #J-5, Redlands, CA 92373 (909) 862-6030  
Representative Joe Baca, 201 No. E St., San Bernardino, 92401 (909) 885-2222  
State Senator, Bob Dutton, 8577 Haven Ave., Rancho Cuc., 91730 (909) 466-4180  
State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, 4959 Aalo Verde St. #100B, Montclair, CA 91763, (909) 621-7483  
Assemblyman Assemblyman Anthony Adams, 135 W. Lemon Ave. #A, Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 359-8305  
Assemblywoman Wilmer Carter, 335 No. Riverside Ave., Rialto, CA 92376 (909) 820-5008  
Assemblyman Bill Emerson, 10681 Foothill Blvd. #325, Rancho Cuc 91730 (909) 466-9096  
Assemblyman Paul Cook, 34932 Yucaipa Blvd. Yucaipa 92399 (909) 790-0479  
San Bdn County Supervisors: #1 Brad Mitzelfelt (909) 387-4830, #2 Paul Biane (909) 387-4833, #3 Dennis Hansberger (909) 387-3018, #4 Gary Ovitt (909) 387-4866, #5 Josie Gonzales (909) 387-5392, 385 No. Arrowhead, San Bdn 92415

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.

#### UPCOMING ELECTION SCHEDULE *from [http://www.ca.san-bernardino.ca.us/rov/general\\_info/](http://www.ca.san-bernardino.ca.us/rov/general_info/)*

##### **June 3, 2008 –Statewide Primary Election**

- Congressional/Assembly/State Senate candidate party nominations
- County Board of Supervisors (District 1, 3, 5) and Judicial candidate nominations
- Central Committee members
- City of Loma Linda
- Local/Statewide measures

##### **November 4, 2008 –Presidential Election**

- Election of candidates: Presidential; Congressional; Assembly; State Senate County Board of Supervisors
- Cities, Schools and Special Districts candidates
- Local/Statewide measures

**LWVSB THANKS HARPER'S PRINTING  
FOR HELP IN REPRODUCING THIS 'VOTER'  
Harper's, 1956 No. E St., LWV's EXCLUSIVE PRINTER AND COPY SHOP**

**CALENDAR**

March 15 ((Sat.) C of A nominations due, form available on LWVSB website  
March 27 ((Thurs.) C of A member volunteer signups due, LWVSB, phone or mail  
April 3 (Thurs.) LWVSB Bd. mtng, 568 Mtn. View Ave., San Bdn  
April 27 (Sunday) Citizens of Achievement Recognition, 2 - 4 p.m., County Govt. Center, 385 No. Arrowhead, S.B.  
June 7 (Sat.) LWVSB Annual meeting, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
June 13 - 17 (Fri.-Tues.) LWVUS Convention, Portland, OR

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

**MARCH 2008**

**Dated Material**

**YOUR VOTER**

