



The Voter

September 2011

League of Women
Voters of San
Bernardino.
Serving voters since
1955

September 2011

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State and National LWV News can be found at

www.lwv.org and
www.lwvc.org.

If you have an e-mail address, you can receive the news directly from the California and National LWV.

President's message:

This is what is happening on the state, national, and local levels of League:

State: LWVC continues to follow redistricting and is opposing efforts, primarily by a group calling itself *Fairness and Accountability in Redistricting (FAIR)* to overturn the lines drawn by the Commission. They ask that we refuse to sign any petitions to overturn what the Commission. We believe the Commission's maps and processes should be upheld: they meet the standards and other criteria in the state Constitution. The update of our Initiative and Referendum position is underway. More about that as it develops.

National: LWVUS has focused its **Clean Air Campaign** on protecting public health, running ads that feature children with respiratory problems, and writing a press re-

lease expressing disappointment in President Obama's retreat on ozone standards. The press release states, in part, that public opinion is clear - clean air and public health are more important than polluter profits. The science is clear - a new clean air standard for ozone smog is needed to protect people's health. We expected better from the President.

On another national issue, the League has sent a letter to members of the Deficit Reduction Committee urging them to take steps immediately to disclose voluntarily the efforts of outside interests to lobby them on matters related to the business of the committee.

Local: This October is the month for once-in-a-lifetime celebrations - the 100th anniversary of when the men

of California voted to give the women of California the right to vote. Our League is planning two celebrations, one at Cal State San Bernardino and the other at the Native Sons of the Golden West and we hope you will attend at least one of them.

We also registered voters at ITT Tech in San Bernardino. Many thanks to **Jennifer and Mel Mc Mullen** and **Marilyn Patterson** for doing that! And we will be moderating a forum for city clerk and city attorney candidates starting at 6 PM at the *Home of Neighborly Service* on October 26, sponsored by the *South Valley Democrats for Change*, a new club that has members in this part of the county.

Until next time, we hope to see you at one of our October events!

Gloria Anderson



The July 1848 Seneca Falls Convention on the rights of women.

Spotlight on Women's Suffrage

There are a number of interesting web presentations this month in honor of women's suffrage and Women's Equality Day:

Slide show on women's suffrage: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1cD0vVoA_U

A History of the Suffragist Movement: <http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm>

Ida Husted Harper's *A History of Woman Suffrage* (from Open Library): <http://www.archive.org/stream/historyofwomansu06stanuoft#page/n5/mode/2up>



Mid 1800s postcard, apparently thought to be humorous, “artist” unknown.



This is from a drawing depicting a speaker at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, the convention where Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s *Declaration of Sentiments* included a radical plank supporting women’s right to vote.

Women’s Suffrage: 1776-1848. We lose the vote and are silenced.

As the laws were being written for our new nation, Abigail Adams entreated her husband, John Adams, to guard the rights of women in the new code of laws. John Adams treated the request lightly, replying that the great heroes of our nation, such as George Washington, would fight the “despotism of the petticoat.”

A few states allowed women to vote, but one by one that right was revoked. By 1807 no woman in the United States had the right to vote.

Women became active in the abolitionist movement and in 1836 Angelina Grimke advised women to speak out in public forums (the most common of which were churches) against slav-

ery. The “Pastoral Letter of the General Association of Massachusetts to the Congregational Churches Under Their Care” was a response designed to silence women.

Source: *Timeline of Women’s Suffrage in the United States* <http://dpsinfo.com/women/history/timeline.html>

Women’s Suffrage: 1848. Women organize.

Elizabeth Cady and Henry Stanton honeymooned in London to participate in the *World Anti-Slavery Convention*. Elizabeth was not welcomed. The conference organizers denied her a seat, refused to let her speak, and banished her (and the other female abolitionists) to a curtained visitor’s gallery. The Conference Credentials Committee had decreed that, as women, they were “constitutionally unfit for public and business meetings.”

One of the women in that gallery was Lucretia Coffin Mott. Sitting there behind

the curtain Elizabeth and Lucretia became allies. They plotted to one day hold a convention for the rights of women.

Eight years later they held that convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote a “Declaration of Sentiments” to state the purpose of the convention. The ninth declaration was women’s suffrage. As the document was read out it received applause – until she got to the ninth plank. Delegates denounced the idea of women’s suffrage, afraid that it would be so radical that it would reduce

the entire convention to an object of ridicule. Frederick Douglas took the floor and his rhetoric about freedom not being divisible according to sex or color carried the day (barely). Sixty-eight women and thirty-two men signed the declaration that became the manifesto of the suffrage movement.

Sources: *Seneca Falls Convention: First Women’s Rights Convention*. American History, June 12, 2006.

Valerie Jablow’s *Tea and Sisterhood*. Smithsonian Magazine Oct. 1998.

Women’s Suffrage: California

In 1893 a suffragists bill was approved in both houses of the California state legislature. Then Governor Markham vetoed it.

In 1896 Susan B. Anthony was part of an eight month campaign for women’s suffrage in California. They put women’s suffrage on the bal-

lot, but it was defeated at the polls.

California suffragists organized, formed alliances, held parades, published pamphlets, wrote editorials, founded a suffrage newspaper, and even canvassed door-to-door to get the issue on the 1911 ballot. On Octo-

ber 10, 1911 the men of California voted to give the women of California the right to vote!

Source: *California: Women Work for Wages, Votes, and Visibility* on the Women of the West Museum site: <http://theautry.org/explore/exhibits/suffrage/>

Celebrate the Centennial of Women's Right to Vote in California!

Your League is hosting two events to celebrate the centennial of women's right to vote in California.

Oct. 10, noon-1 p.m.

LWVSB will provide a noon-time lecture on women's suffrage at Cal State's Pfau Library (4th floor) to students, faculty, staff, and the public. (Parking is \$5) The League will also present a book: Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr.'s Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement to Pfau Library.

Oct. 22, 2-4 p.m. LWVSB and the Native Sons of the Golden West will host a celebration at the Native Sons' Hall on the corner of Del Rosa Ave. and Date St.)

YOU ARE INVITED to the lecture/reception. We will (probably) have champagne. We will (certainly) have sparkling cider. We will also serve tea! (Which was the beverage of the suffragist movement.)

You only get one chance at a 100th birthday. Join us to

celebrate this historic victory!

YOU ARE NEEDED.

Please call or email LWVSB Membership Chair Bert Fox (909)882-0723 to see how you can help.

Bring your friends, bring your neighbors, (bring your teapots), bring the men in your life. Without the votes of the men of California the women of California would have waited another nine years for the vote. Let's say "thank you" and let's all **CELEBRATE!**

"When I first heard from her lips that I had the same right to think for myself that Luther, Calvin and John Knox had, the same right to be guided by my own convictions... I felt a newborn sense of dignity and freedom.
E.C. Stanton on meeting L. Mott

Volunteer to Observe Poll Worker Training

San Bernardino County's new Registrar of Voters, Michael J. Scarpello, has issued an invitation to LWVSB members.

Mr. Scarpello worked with the League in his last position in Denver and he understands our commitment to fair elections.

At a September 29 meeting LWVSB President Gloria Anderson mentioned that many of us have experience as poll workers.

Mr. Scarpello has inaugurated a new system of hiring poll workers; it includes a newly developed training component. He is interested in having experienced poll

workers (or other people of imagination who can foresee possible pitfalls) observe training sessions (which will take place in October for the November election). If you would be willing to observe and provide feedback on one or more training sessions please contact Gloria Anderson.

Do you remember the butterfly ballot in the Bush v Gore election? At 5 p.m. on Election Day (Nov. 9, 2000) the Miami Elections Supervisor issued a memo to poll workers telling them to remind voters "that they are to vote only for one presidential candidate and that they are to punch the hole next to the arrow next to the number next to the candidate they wish to vote for..."
Confusing ballots lead to miscast votes.

Ballot Redesigned to Improve Clarity

LWVSB President Gloria Anderson and SmartVoter Coordinator Jill Vassilakos-Long met with Registrar of Voters Michael J. Scarpello on September 29 to arrange SmartVoter participation for San Bernardino County.

Mr. Scarpello showed us the "proofing deck" of ballots (drafts to be checked and approved prior to printing). We also viewed ballots from the last election.

It was an education! More creativity, care, and attention to detail goes into every aspect of holding an election than you would imagine.

The case in point was the redesign of the ballot. English and Spanish instructions are now presented in separate text blocks rather than being run together. There is a large, clear, graphic of the correct way to mark the ballot. The voting instructions are simply easier to read.

The candidate names have been "right justified" so that they are next to their arrows. (Reducing the chances of miscast votes.)

The ballot identification numbering system has been simplified to ensure that voters get the correct ballot.

This thoughtful redesign support voters and is much appreciated!

League of Women Voters of San Bernardino.
Serving voters since 1955

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**The League of Women Voters:
Because Democracy is not a
spectator sport.**

**We're on the web: [http://
lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org](http://lwvsanbernardino.ca.lwvnet.org)**



Banned Books Week, Sept. 24-Oct. 1

Celebrate your freedom to read by checking out a banned book! This year's most frequently challenged books include a 2005 picture book about penguins (*And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell) and Aldous Huxley's 1932 dystopian science fiction novel *Brave New World*. For more information go to Google and search "10 most challenged books".

CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDY KICKOFF MEETING

Here's a recap of our first meeting on charter schools in the San Bernardino City Unified School District on September 24. We were privileged to have a presentation by the District's new Director of Charter Schools, Edwin Gomez. We also had some guests from some of the charter schools as well as other interested individuals. It was also helpful to have one of our school board members, Elsa Valdez (also a League member) attending.

Mr. Gomez used an interactive approach that involved us in thinking about the subject. Some interesting statistics:

There are 66 schools in the SBCUSD, and 11 of them are charter schools.

We learned about the requirements of schools that are chartered by districts based on the Charter Schools Act of 1992. and about the petition process and grounds for denial of petitions and we were able to see some of the petitions that had been submitted for approval by the school board. They cannot charge tuition, nor can they discriminate on the basis of race, gender, etc. There are also grounds for revocation of charters.

We were encouraged to hear that the District has established oversight pro-

cedures that include Mr. Gomez meeting with each charter school at least once a week and regular audits to determine the financial soundness of each school. Petitions must be submitted for renewal every 3 to 5 years.

We gained a wealth of information about the District's charter schools – much more than can be included in this report, but you will be given more background information at future meetings, and if you are interested in being on the committee, please contact me.

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Upcoming events—save the date!

Oct. 10: Presentation on Women's Suffrage on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of women being granted the right to vote in California. California State University, Pfau Library rm 4005 (4th floor) noon-1pm.

Oct. 22: CELEBRATE the centennial of Women's Right to Vote in California. 2-4 p.m. Native Sons of the Golden West Hall at Del Rosa Ave. and Date St.

Dec. 3: Holiday party at Bert Fox's home—time and other specifics to be announced, but SAVE THE DATE!

Month of October: If you are willing to volunteer to observe poll worker training call Gloria Anderson to volunteer.