



# The Voter

League of Women  
Voters  
of San Bernardino  
1955-NOW!

*Your guide to local issues, action, and information*

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## President's Message

The last big event of the League year is coming up on June 2 - the Annual Meeting - our 57th.

This will be the unveiling of a position on Charter Schools as a culmination of our study of charter schools in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. In addition, we will vote on a budget for 2012-2013 that would enable our League to present a series of public education meetings on vital issues, and we will also be electing board members.

You won't want to miss hearing our luncheon speaker, Chris Tickell, SBCUSD Director of Charter School Operations, and having some time to enjoy the lunch and do some socializing.

If you don't receive your kit this week, please contact me so we can get one to you. And remember to make your reservation by May 26.

**Clear your calendars for June 2 and join us for this important event.**

In this issue of *The*

*Voter*, you will also find news you can use on the June ballot measures and how the League stands on them, and the changes we will find such as the Top Two primary. And be sure you read Jill Vassilakos-Long's eyewitness account of the Citizens of Achievement reception and awards.

*-LWVSB President  
Gloria Anderson*

## The June 5 Election

- Register to vote before May 21, 2012!
- In the June 2010 election, California voters elected to change our primary system to a "Top Two Primary." See details in June 5 Ballot—Top Two voting.
- See the League's recommendations on the ballot measures (page 5).

## June 5 Ballot—Top Two voting

Michael J Scarpello is our new San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters. This June primary will be challenging for his department as the county's tighter budget, staff reductions and changes in the our California primary elections for Assembly and Senate State officers have changed as well as the election districts.

Our Easy Voter Guide explains the NEW in this primary election on June 5<sup>th</sup> very succinctly. You can also go to the Registrar of Voters website under current elections for a description of the *NEW Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act*. Previously known as partisan offices, voter-nominated offices are state legislative offices,

U.S. congressional offices, and state constitutional offices

First is a reminder that the deadline to register to vote for this election is May 21, 2012. If you want to vote by mail, you must get your written request to the registrar by May 29, 2012.

We League members

*Cont. on p.6*



Mayor Patrick Morris was thanked for his work with CASA.

### Citizens of Achievement

On April 29, 2012 the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino honored thirteen members of our community at our Citizens of Achievement reception.

The first three honorees are people who give their time to support young people as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a trained volunteer who is appointed by a judge of the Juvenile Dependency

clear that they dedicate themselves to the mission of supporting and mentoring these children. They give of themselves, their time, and their resources to help some of the most vulnerable people in our community when their basic support network—their family, is failing them.

The CASA volunteers Dave Chadsey and Nancy Hughes could not be present, SynToia Arline and Maggie Harris of CASA accepted the *Citizens of Achievement* awards on their behalf and thanked Mayor Morris (who was in the audience) for his work in developing the CASA program in San Bernardino, telling him that his inspiration and passion live on in the volunteers of the CASA program.

Bryce Garcia spoke movingly about being there to offer all kinds of needed

support through CASA. Mr. Garcia has brought the young man he works with into his business and his life, teaching him skills and offering emotional support as he navigates a bewildering and difficult situation.

Lana Smylie, was nominated by CASA for her work with young women who are trying to keep or regain custody of their children. She works tirelessly to help them create a stable home, complete their education, and become better parents. She told the crowd that she had given birth to sons, and now these young women were like her daughters.

Bernadette Pinchback, who works as Manager of the *Office for Foster Youth in the San Bernardino County Schools*, was nominated by CASA for her service to foster youth. She



LWVSB President Gloria Anderson presenting the Award to Bryce Garcia of CASA



Lana Smylie

Court (which deals with cases involving children, often children who have been abused and neglected). The CASA volunteer’s mission is to look after the best interests of the child. No matter what is happening in the court case, the CASA volunteer is there to focus on the well-being of the child.

As the nomination information for each of these volunteers was read it was



Gloria Anderson and Bernadette Pinchback

has been particularly active in seeing that adults working with foster youth understand the education system so that they can help the children be successful in the school system. Ms. Pinchback told the crowd that they all hope that things will go so well for these families that everyone involved will find that they've worked themselves out of the job!

Vanessa Perez, an intern with *Time for Change*, works with the homeless. She is involved with the *Homeless Empowerment Leadership Project*. The project is centered around the idea that people who experience homelessness understand it best, and that, with the appropriate training and support they will be effective advocates for themselves, and for ending homelessness in our society. Ms. Perez also works with children in her church and volunteers at the Downtown Mission two days a week.

Ms. Perez told the crowd that she has found the joy of giving; that there is more joy in helping others than in living to please yourself.

Victor Suarez, Executive Director of *The Home of Neighborly Services*, spoke about the need in our community.

Mr. Suarez was lauded as always finding a way to help, no matter how meager the resources, but he



Victor Suarez

revealed to the audience that it is difficult. He told us that every month there are more bills than money, more needs than resources. If you would like to help, then call *The Home of Neighborly Services* at (909)885-3491 and ask to speak to Mr. Suarez!

Cathy Bechtel, past President of the *Assistance League*, was honored for her hard work and commit-



Cathy Bechtel

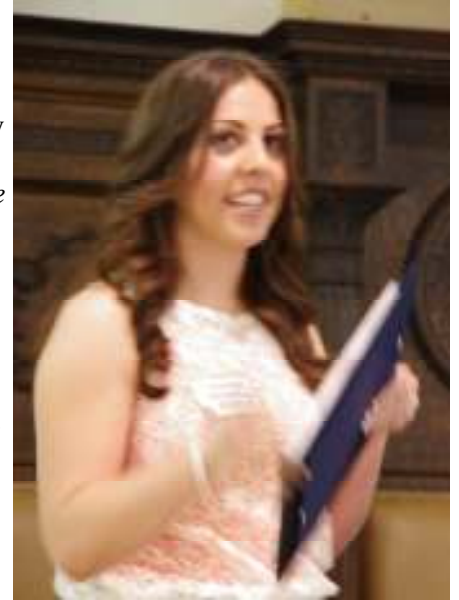
ment in helping children in our community.

Ms. Bechtel headed *Operation School Bell* which provides new clothing to needy children and she co-chaired the *Assistance League's 49th Headdress Ball's "Imagine: A Tribute to the Beatles"* which raised over \$100,000 to support the *Dr. Earl R. Crane Children's Dental Clinic*. Ms. Bechtel has also served our community as a member of the *Team Unforgettables* for the *American Cancer Society*.

Denise Benton was the first African-American woman to be president of the *Rotary Club!* (...and the organization is 91 years old.) She is Chair of the *Rotary Club's Life Scholarship Leadership Program*. Ms. Benton is on the Board of the Directors of the *Assistance League*. (In 2009 she served as one of the models in the *Assis-*

*tance League's 48th Headdress Ball*. That year the Ball raised enough money to help 483 children per headdress!) Ms. Benton has also served on the *Assistance League's Strategic Planning Committee*.

Ms. Benton is an active member of *Kappa*



Vanessa Perez

**“There is more joy in helping others than in living to please yourself.”**  
**-Vanessa Perez**



Denise Benton

### Citizen's of Achievement (cont.)



Sheldon Ewell

“I have been successful in San Bernardino, this ‘distressed town where nothing good happens’ Everything good has happened to me in San Bernardino.”  
Sheldon Ewell



Thank you to all who volunteer in our community!

*Alpha Kappa*. She has been Chair of the *San Bernardino City Schools District Advisory Council* for 4 years and is currently on the *Construction Bond Oversight Committee*. She also serves on the *5th District PTA Board*, and is active in her church. Ms. Benton said that she felt that the Lord had put her on this earth to help others.

Mr. Sheldon Ewell was honored for his substantial contributions to the community, his church, and the business world.

Mr. Ewell is active in his church, currently serving as the Mormon Patriarch. He is the President of the *San Bernardino Clergy Association*, which works together to bring good will among all denominations.

Mr. Ewell has served as President and as a board member of the *Rotary Club* and as President of the businessmen and women’s group for *LeTip*. He serves on the boards *Health Services of the San Bernardino area* and the *Inland Empire Red Cross*. He has been active in the *Boy Scouts* for 30 years, now serving as chairman and board member for the *Arrowhead District Boy Scouts of America*.

Mr. Ewell expressed his appreciation for and faith in San Bernardino. He spoke about his 10 children and 36 grandchildren, his

love for his family and for our community.

Mary Duke Ramsey was nominated for a lifetime of work in the community. She has been an active member of the *Women’s Club* for over 30 years. She is currently serving her second term as its President. She is a 45 year member of *Beta Sigma Phi* and has been active in *Child Help*, *Zonta*, and the *Assistance League*.

Ms. Ramsey told the crowd that when she first decided to join service clubs she felt like an “onion in a petunia patch.” We are so glad that she persevered! Her contributions have

benefit from life, the more you should give back.

Michele Tacchia’s husband Michael accepted the award on Michele’s behalf.

Ms. Tacchia was nominated for her commitment to developing musicians in our community. She founded and is director of the *Symphonie Jeunesse* (Youth Orchestra), an organization for string players in the middle and high schools of our community. Recently she was appointed conductor of the *Cal State San Bernardino Chamber Orchestra*.

Mr. Tacchia mentioned that he and his wife had



Past LWVSB Pres. Jennifer McMullen and Citizen of Achievement Mary Duke Ramsey noticed that, when

made such a difference in our community. She told the crowd that her philosophy is that the more you

top students are introduced in graduation ceremonies, playing a musical instrument is usually listed as

one of their accomplishments. He said that he and his wife hope that “hands that hold a violin will never hold a gun.”

Knea Hawley was nominated for her work in the Arrowhead United Way’s Women’s Leadership Council and their Young Leadership Council. One Young Leadership Council project partnered with FedEx, Wells Fargo, the City of San Bernardino and others to provide 500 backpacks for low income stu-

dents. She designed a mentoring program for the Women’s Leadership Council to nurture and guide young women who are working to become established in their careers.

All of the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino salute our Citizens of Achievement! Thank you for all that you do to improve the lives of everyone in our community.

-Jill Vassilakos-Long



Past LWVSB Pres. Jennifer McMullen and Citizen of Achievement Knea Hawley

## LWVC Recommends : June 5, Primary Election

### PROP 28: TERM LIMIT REFORM

The League of Women Voters **supports** Prop 28, which will modify California's term limits law. Legislators are currently limited to 3 terms in the Assembly and two terms in the state Senate. Prop 28 will reduce this fourteen-year limit to twelve years. Legislators will be allowed to serve the whole twelve years in either house of the legislature or to serve a combination of terms in the two houses. Prop 28 will not benefit any current or former legislator.

This simple measure is a step in the right direction that will improve accountability. Legislators will no longer be

constantly looking for the next office to run for; they will have time to develop expertise and to get things done.

### PROP 29: ADDITIONAL TAX ON CIGARETTES TO FUND RESEARCH

Proposition 29 establishes an increased tax on cigarettes. The money collected from this tax is earmarked to fund research on cancer and other tobacco-related diseases.

The League of Women Voters does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because of the health benefits that would come from reduced smoking and increased funding for medical research.

For more information (including the fiscal impact, background and history of the issue) see:

**Proposition 28:**

<http://ca.lwv.org/action/prop1206/prop28.html>

and

<http://www.smartvoter.org/2012/06/05/ca/state/prop/28/>

**Proposition 29:**

<http://www.smartvoter.org/2012/06/05/ca/state/prop/29/>

**LWVC**  
**Recommendations:**  
**Yes on Prop. 28**  
  
**(Neutral on Prop. 29)**

**League of Women Voters  
of San Bernardino 1955-NOW!**

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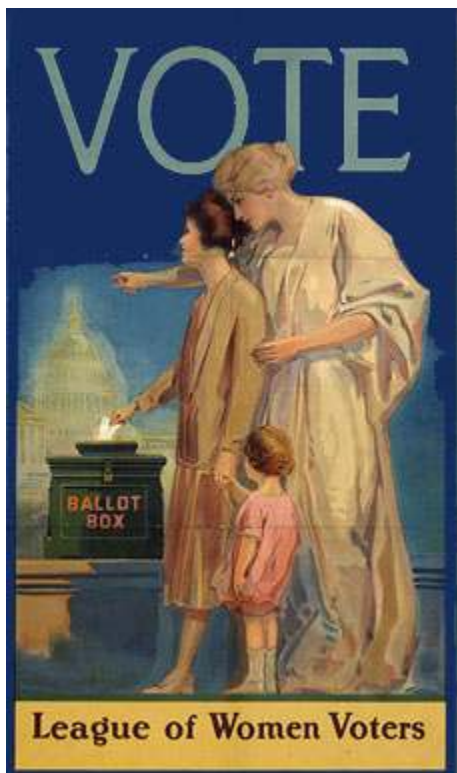
**The League of Women Voters: Because  
Democracy is not a spectator sport.**

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

**Upcoming events—save the date!**

**June 2: LWVSB Annual Meeting**

You should have received your meeting packet, either by email or by U.S. post, by this time. If you have not, please contact Gloria Anderson. The Reservation Deadline is **MAY 26**. Complete the reservation form (designating your lunch preference) and send it with your check, payable to the League of Women Voters of San Bernardino, to Ruth Petrucci, Treasurer, 568 North Mountain View, #150, San Bernardino 92401. If you cannot print out your packet then contact Gloria so that she can print one out for you to use at the meeting.



1920s LWV Poster

**June 5 Ballot—Top Two voting (cont.)**

know how important it is to encourage our citizens to VOTE! If you have moved, changed your party preference or your name, you need to re-register.

Due to the redistricting you may find that you vote at a different polling place this time. As you know, every 10 years the districts get redrawn based on the Census. California voters passed a law about a

new way to set these and this is the first election using the new district lines.

“Top Two” is the new way we will choose candidates for all state elected offices (not for the President who will still be chosen from each party’s nominee in the November general election).

In this June election all voters will choose from the same list of

candidates for state offices. The TOP TWO candidates with the most votes will advance to the November election regardless of any party affiliation.

*-Shirley Harlan*

For additional information, including links to Pros and Cons and the Easy Voter Guide, see: [http://  
cavotes.org/vote/  
election/2012/june/5](http://cavotes.org/vote/election/2012/june/5)