



THE BEACH CITIES VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities

Serving El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach

BLOOMERS TO PERFORM AT BEACH CITIES' ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Beach Cities Annual Meeting on May 5th will have an appealing addition during the lunch break that you won't want to miss! Joining us to help us both learn, as well as refresh our memories about women's history and take a new look at the Woman Suffrage Movement and its leaders will be longtime Leaguers and community activists Linda Jenkins and Renee Chanon. Their program, *From Corsets And Bloomers To Body Piercing And Tattoos: The Women's Movement* is both fun and informative. Dressed in period clothing from wig to foot Jenkins and Chanon play the founding mothers Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The "Bloomers" bring the women's rights movement to life in a 30-minute dialogue. Their program tells the story of the rebellion that started in Seneca Falls, New York, highlights key figures and events, and links the story of the suffragists to today's status of women's rights and the current political scene.

If you are a woman who wears pants, votes at election time, or signs a contract to rent an apartment or to get a credit card, then you owe a debt to those who fought so long and hard for your rights. If you take for granted that you are the guardian of your own children, you owe them. If you assume that your paycheck will be written to you instead of to your husband, you owe them. If you are a man who proudly sends his daughter off to college, or part-

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icipates in a two-career household you also owe them.

"Visiting other countries like South Africa and Bosnia I realized how privileged other people felt to have the opportunity to vote while in the U.S., California being my bailiwick, they can't be bothered to drop in a mail-in form into a mail slot," said Jenkins.

Jenkins spent twelve weeks in Bosnia-Herzegovina registering voters and training women leaders for the State Department. She remembers witnessing a person with crutches so determined to register to vote, that he was carried up the stairs.

The Bloomers were conceived in July 1998, after Linda and Renee attended the 150th anniversary of the women's movement in Seneca Falls, New York.

"After attending the 75th anniversary celebration of women winning the right to vote and the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the women's rights movement, I felt that women's history needs to be told. It's still not included in our nation's textbooks," said Chanon. Jenkins and

(Continued on page 7)



Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

Stanton is seated, Anthony is standing.

(Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

Co-President's Message, by Jeanne Leuschner

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization open to all citizens, men and women, of voting age. The League's mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League never supports or opposes any political candidate. The League advocates on issues that members have studied and on which members have reached consensus.

Beach Voter

Co-Presidents

Jeanne Leuschner

Jan Nathanson

Guest Editor

Kate Alson

Production

Susan Grebe

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Mignon Thiem-Murphy

Circulation

Ann Martin

I had to look it up ---to be sure! Yes, it has been three years since Jan Nathanson and I became co-presidents of the Beach Cities League. And soon others will be taking over this position. Elections are coming up Saturday, May 8th at our Beach Cities Annual Meeting. Please come!

This may be my last Co-President's message, so I take this opportunity to thank those that did so much. First -- kudos to Peggy Bartlett our treasurer. Not only did she collect dues, pay bills, and keep errorless books, but also she was our representative on the Tri-League -- our collaboration with Torrance and Palos Verdes Leagues, collected money, arranged payment, and carpools for other League events in the County and State, sent letters and collected funds for our non-event fundraiser, worked with Mignon Thiem-Murphy to set up our booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, and arranged the schedule for fair workers.

And kudos to Linda Mack and Barbara Arlow our voters service chairs. Arranging a candidates' meeting is hard work. We cover six cities -- (plus have "adopted" Lawndale who recently asked us to hold a meeting). Linda needed helpers for this one but had to make dozens of calls to finally find two - and one of those was Jan.

June Eicker and Maggie Wilkinson our program chairs gave us terrific presentations on League programs this year. They too could have used more help on their study groups - and more attendees to the meetings.

All of our board members worked hard these past few years. But we currently have 120 members. There are many opportunities for **you** to help on events. In November the big elections are coming up --from President of the United States, and other State and National elections, to more California initiatives. We hope you will decide to join in. **You** can and will make a difference if you choose to participate.

Can we count on you?

Jeanne



***We're always looking for new volunteers!
E-mail us at
info@beachvoter.org or
call us at
(310) 413-6904.***

League members who attended the Tri-League 14th Annual Lasagna Dinner on March 18th in Torrance had a chance to hobnob with local politicians while enjoying lasagna, salad, and cake. As seen in the photo many of our locally elected officials and LWV Presidents were in attendance. (*The Tri-League Of Women Voters is a collaboration of the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, and Torrance.*)

After dinner, California Senator Betty Karnette gave a lively briefing on "What's Up in Sacramento???" Unfortunately Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal was unable to speak as well due to illness at the last minute. Karnette and Lowenthal share constituencies in the Long Beach Harbor area. However, while Lowenthal's 54th Assembly District takes in the coast from the Palos Verdes Peninsula through Signal Hill, Senator Karnette's 27th Senate District stretches north from Long Beach, and Cerritos to take in all or part of communities as far north as Lynwood, South Gate, and Downey.

Senator Karnette sits on the Senate's Transportation, International Trade, Education and Corrections Committees. A capsule sampling of her remarks follows:

The budget crunch will dominate decision-making in Sacramento until something changes. The state's income flow will be unstable so long as it must rely on sales and income taxes, rather than the property tax. Businesses should not be allowed to utilize ploys permitted by the corporation laws to keep real estate transfers from triggering reassessment under Proposition 13.

- ? She thinks term limits will deprive California's legislative bodies of valuable expertise and institutional memory. The League can play an important role by coordinating debate among differing viewpoints on issues, in the absence of experienced legislators performing that function.
- ? She opposes efforts to divert to the General Fund monies that were designated for transportation projects, including improvements to the Port of Los Angeles to help alleviate congestion and pollution. She noted that a halt to ongoing projects would result in construction job losses and penalties for default on contractual commitments.
- ? She believes the Alameda Corridor will eventu-



Front Row: Unidentified, Co-President LWVPV Charlene Chang, City of Hawthorne Administrative Aide Rosalinda Martinez, Co-President LWVPV Helen Coffey, State Senator Betty Karnette, President LWVT June Armstrong, Co-President LWVBC Jan Nathanson, Co-President LWVBC Jeanne Leuschner.

Back Row: Diane Cagle (Redondo Beach Councilmember Chris Cagle's spouse), Mayor of Manhattan Beach Jim Aldlinger, Mayor Pro Tem of Hawthorne Paul Cantano.

ally be effective as a shuttle to move containerized cargo to freight distribution points at locations remote from the Harbor, reducing truck traffic to, from and at the Port.

- ? She favors requiring workers' compensation insurers to set rates by reference to employers' claims history, but she opposes the proposed initiative for workers' compensation reform. She opposes initiatives in general.
- ? She favors substituting a graduated scale of punishments for the present automatic re-imprisonment of parolees caught in minor bad acts. She would send prisoners who are foreign citizens back to their home country, saving \$26,000 per year each, but not to Mexico, as she believes the jails are full.
- ? She described Governor Schwarzenegger as a quick study who has made some good appointments and is "pretty good" at coalition building. She said she feels he is better at reaching out to Democrats than Republicans, mentioning that she is carrying a bill for him that would cap increases in certain fees at 10 percent per year.

Senator Karnette said she will run for the Assembly when she is "termed out" next year. There is speculation that Karnette and Lowenthal might switch places.

League Member, Henrietta Mosley

Local News

City Board, Committees, Commissions- Who's There? Should We Care?

How much do you know about the boards, commissions and committees that help govern your city? Do you know what they do? Do you know the extent of their authority? How are their members selected? How could you apply? Come learn more at our April meeting.

Do you have personal experience as an elected or appointed member of a city body? Do you know about someone else's experience? Have you been through the application process? Come share your impressions with us.

At the April membership meeting we will report on the appointment process in each of our six cities and compare our findings with another local League's survey of 73 California cities. We will examine issues identified by that survey and consider whether they should concern us in our own communities.



**Membership Meeting on Appointments
to City Boards, Commissions and Committees**

Monday, April 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Manhattan Beach Library
1320 Highland, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266**



We rely on the interest, support, and charitable instincts of our members and supporters. In addition to donors listed in our March *Beach Voter*, more have come through — and we thank them for their support!

Mary Welch

Dixie Roy

Doris Rosenberg

Barbara Arlow

Wanda Arcos

Welcome To Our New Members!

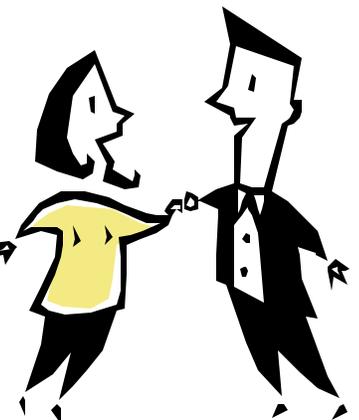
This month we welcome two new members:

Gloria Patterson of Playa del Rey and Herbert Mosley of Manhattan Beach.

We look forward to getting to know each other!

Co-Membership Chairs, Valma Evans & Susan Grebe

Please see page 7 to learn more about the mission of the League of Women Voters and how you too can join!



Overhauling School Funding in California: The Push for Greater Adequacy, Equity, and Accountability in California

April/May 2004

This Report On The 27th EdSource Forum covers the talk held on March 18th in Manhattan Beach.

What Is Adequate Funding? How Is It Determined?:

Keynote speaker, Larry Picus, Professor, Rossier School of Education, USC defined adequacy as sufficient fiscal resources to enable all schools to deploy educational strategies to educate nearly all students to the state's proficiency standards. Challenges for the state included:

1) No local revenue authority; 2) inadequate revenue limits; 3) complex and confusing categorical programs; and 4) no local property tax options. Jon Sonstelie, Public Policy Institute of California, discussed practical and political questions of increasing funding for poor school districts.



Visit: www.edsource.org for more info.

Difficult Questions About School Resources & Governance In CA:

John Mockler, Former Exec. Director State Board of Education, noted Proposition 13 changed governance structure from local school control to state control without providing more funding. Jeannie Oakes, Director, UCLA Institute for Democracy, Education, & Access, spoke of

the need to deal with issues of race, poverty, and inequality. Michael Kirst, Co-Director, Policy Analysis for California Education, suggested financing be tied to academic standards.

Building Political Will To Adequately And Effectively Fund K-12 Public Schools:

Jessica Garcia, Statewide Outreach Coordinator, Campaign for Fiscal Equity, described how CFE helped New York State courts decide sufficient resources must be made available to provide students with a meaningful high school education. Liz Guillen, Public Advocates' Educational Equity Campaign, whose law firm is part of the coalition that filed a class action lawsuit to hold California state officials accountable for assuring equitable opportunities for learning, reported on numerous problems facing schools. Brad Strong, Legislative Director, EdVoice, a nonprofit political advocacy organization seeking to influence statewide education policy, noted the time is right for fiscal reform.

The New Administration--School Funding Ideas:

Richard Riordan, Secretary for Education, suggests that local districts--parents, teachers, principals--decide how to use funding with the ultimate decision making power allocated to the superintendents.

Social Policy Chair, Harriet Chase

TAKE ACTION! Action Alert for SB 921

SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl) **Healthcare For The All Californians Act** has passed the Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee sometime in June 2004. Assemblymember George Nakano, 53rd District, is on the health committee and has not yet given his support. Please send a letter, fax, e-mail, postcard, or call his office to urge him to support this bill. Remember to say you are a registered voter, and list the city you are calling from if you live within his district. Also be sure to include your name, address, and phone number so they can verify you are a constituent.

Please use and modify the sample letter below as you see fit. The more personal the better!

Dear Mr. Nakano:

I support SB 921, The Healthcare for All Californians Act, authored by Sheila Kuehl, because I believe it is a fair and equitable way to provide comprehensive and quality healthcare to all the residents of the State of California. Efforts over the years to increase the number of people covered by our existing system of employer-based and government-sponsored insurance have failed and have been unable to contain the spiraling cost of healthcare. It's time to take this important step. Please vote yes and support SB 921 when it comes up for a vote in the Health Committee this June.

Sincerely yours - Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number (optional) E-mail (optional)

Contact Information: Assemblymember George Nakano, 1217 El Prado Ave, Torrance, CA 90501

phone: 310-782-1553, e-mail: george.nakano@asm.ca.gov

BLOOMERS

(Continued from page 1)

Chanon have been giving these presentations for a little over a year now, to diverse organizations such as the Social Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, American Association of University Women, Daughters of the American Revolution, Harbor Area YWCA, as well as many schools.

"This is our educational tool to raise people's consciousness," said Jenkins, "It's a very worthwhile, gratifying thing that we're doing here."

Assistant Editor, Kate Alson

Join the League!

We're a not-for-profit organization, established in 1920, with the mission of promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. We never support or oppose political candidates. We do advocate on issues that our members have studied and on which we've reached consensus.

All citizens — men and women of voting age — are welcome to join. If you can't attend our monthly meetings and special events, please consider showing your support through your annual membership fee of \$45 (\$65 for household memberships), which is not tax-deductible. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible.

For more information, you may contact Susan Grebe at membership@beachvoter.org or (310) 545-2097. Or just send your check (payable to the League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities), to Peggy Bartlett, 701 13th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

I would like to give the gift of League membership to the following friend/couple:

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Notes _____

The League affirms our belief in and our commitment to diversity and pluralism. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

Calendar

April 12	Mon	7:15 - 9:15 p.m.	Board Meeting	At the home of Harriet Chase 2151 Valley Drive Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
April 26	Mon	7 - 9:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting -- A Study Of Non-Elected Positions including City Board, Commissions, and Committees.	Manhattan Beach Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
May 8	Sat	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Beach Cities Annual Meeting/ "Bloomers" Presentation	At the home of Linda Mack 571 27th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
May 15-16	Sat-Sun		LWVC Leadership Council	Sacramento, CA
June 11-15	Mon		LWVUS National Convention	Washington, D.C.
Jun 21	Mon	6 - 9:00 p.m.	New - Old Board Meeting	At the home of Jan Nathanson 13731 South Rossburn Avenue Hawthorne, CA 90250



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



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Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
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editor@beachvoter.org
<http://www.beachvoter.org>

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