



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

HAVA's Sticky Launch

While the elections are over (for now) many questions remain about how to improve the system and make every vote count. Henrietta E. Mosley, LWVBC Co-President, attended a presentation on the launch of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) just before the election to learn more and share some history and an update.

On the Friday before the election, Gracia Hillman, Vice Chair of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) in Washington D.C. and a former executive director of the LWVUS, dropped by the LWVLA offices to share lunch and some candid comments with an assortment of local LWV presidents and voter service chairs. Hearing Ms. Hillman tell of the new EAC Commissioners' struggle to launch a brand new election reform program with insufficient funds and not enough time was, for me, just the right stimulus to bring HAVA into focus.

The four-member EAC is responsible for establishing state guidelines for implementation of HAVA's requirements and acting as a clearinghouse for voluntary standards adopted by the States in the form of a State Plan that is published in the Federal Register. 30 to 45 days after publication, the State files a certification of compliance as a prerequisite to receiving "requirements payments" to help fund HAVA reforms -- provisional voting, a statewide voter registration database, voting system standards and identification requirements for voters who register by mail. The EAC's duties also extend to carrying out grant programs, providing for testing and certification of voting systems and holding hearings on such topics as electronic voting and best election practices.

HAVA was enacted in October 2002. If deadlines set by the Act had been met and authorized funds issued, the Commission would have gotten underway in early 2003 with a \$10 million per year budget. As it actually happened, nominations were forwarded to the Senate on October 3, 2003

and confirmed December 9, and the new Commission was appropriated only \$1.2 million for FY2004. With borrowed office space and no staff until April 1, the Commissioners held their first public meeting on March 23, 2004. By then the election was little more than seven months away. Implementation has varied from state to state. California required a waiver of the central state database requirement and authorization to continue using punch cards in some areas until 2006, and HAVA grants for voter education were held up by the Governor. Still, in our use of provisional ballots and other polling procedures we are comparatively progressive and were not anticipated to experience major difficulties with new HAVA requirements such as requirements for showing identification.

The National Voter carried articles on HAVA in the January/February 2004 and October 2004 issues. More info is available at: www.lwv.org. For a concise, readable history of HAVA's implementation and funding shortfalls see a report for Congress titled, "Elections Reform: Overview and Issues," at <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/36744.pdf>. Immediately after the election the LWVUS posted an objective Election Day Experience Survey on its website www.lwv.org. The results will be forwarded to the EAC. Take a moment to input your experiences and urge your friends to do the same. We have scheduled a meeting on HAVA for February 28th. If you'd like to help please call Jan Nathanson at 310-643-6247.

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Co-President's Message, by Henrietta E. Mosley

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization open to all citizens - both 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

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League of Extraordinary Women

That was the caption on the *Easy Reader's* South Bay Calendar item for our October membership meeting. The front page featured the Candidates Forum for the 36th Congressional and 53rd Assembly Districts, co-sponsored with the Torrance League and skillfully moderated by our own Carole Wagner Vallianos.

The extraordinary men and women of the Beach Cities League were everywhere this Fall!

We expanded our presence at the Manhattan Beach Old Home-town Fair, using our new tabling kit to register voters, provide information about the League, and distribute the ever-popular Pros & Cons, Election Guides, and other League publications.

We also held two well-attended public Pros & Cons meetings, one of them shown on Adelphia Cable. We did nine other Pros & Cons presentations by invitation for organizations and community groups throughout our service area. In all we spoke to 385 people, plus the cable audience.

We distributed over 1200 Election Guides containing impartial information on the ballot measures and profiles of the candidates for judicial office.

We fielded numerous phone calls, many of them asking for voter registration information, requesting additional copies of the LWV Election Guide, or simply calling to tell us how helpful our materials were, especially the information on judges which was not available elsewhere. We were able to direct voters to valuable new League tools, such as: www.smartvoter.org and our own www.beachvoter.org which has valuable information as well as links to other useful sites. Local cable television also carried "Vote 2004: Meet Your Judicial Candidates," which was sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of Los Angeles County, Santa Monica and Los Angeles and produced by Santa Monica City TV.

AND NOW . . . we look forward to the months ahead when we can redirect our energies. We will wrap up our **consensus on education** at the November membership meeting on Monday, November 29th from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Library, 1320 Highland Avenue. At the **League Holiday Program Planning Meeting And Get Together** on Saturday, December 11, 2004, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Home of Ann Martin, 921 Rowell Avenue, Manhattan Beach, we will be examining the State League's priorities for 2005-2006. ***We hope you will plan to join us for both of these important meetings!*** After that, we plan to hold membership meetings in early 2005 on such diverse subjects as the proposed Plaza El Segundo development at Rosecrans and Sepulveda, the Help America Vote Act's evolving implementation, State and Local Finance in the wake of Proposition 1A and the needs and challenges facing foster care families. *We hope these topics are ones you'd like to see us address, and that you'll come out to the meetings and bring your friends!* Check out our calendar on the back page, as well as visit our **website: www.beachvoter.org** to find out the dates of these upcoming meetings. Please give us a call if you can help or have suggestions you'd like to pass along!

-Henrietta

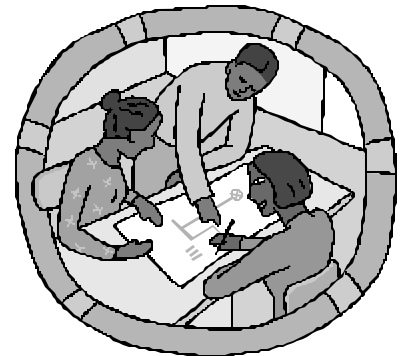
Join Us For The Festive, Planning Time of Year!



League Holiday Program Planning Meeting And Get Together

WHEN: Saturday, December 11, 2004, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHERE: Home of Ann Martin,
921 Rowell Avenue, Manhattan Beach



WHAT: This is your chance to help update the League of Women Voters LA County (LWVLAC) position statements and let our leaders know which statewide issues are of most interest and concern to us!!

The League's prioritization process truly reflects the grassroots nature of our organization. After all the CA Leagues have completed similar planning efforts, the results will be compiled by the State League. These results will then be presented for approval by delegates attending our State Convention in May 2005. Come and be part of the discussion and local League voting!

Please review the enclosed program planning two-page inserts beforehand and bring them with you to our meeting so they will be easy to talk about and refer to during the discussion.

In addition to planning the LWVC program, come celebrate the holidays with your League colleagues! After selecting our program for 2005, we'll enjoy a potluck lunch together.

Guests are welcome!!!

For our potluck lunch, please bring enough for 6 servings. If your last name begins with A-L, bring a hot dish; M-Z bring a salad. Coffee, dessert, rolls, punch, and wine will be provided. If you need a ride or further information, please call Susan Grebe at 310-545-2097.

-June Eiker & Maggie Wilkinson, LWVBC Co-Program Chairs

Brown Bag Meeting: The Price of Justice - Campaigning for Judicial Office

What does it take to run for judicial office?

At our Tri-League (Beach Cities, Palos Verdes/Peninsula, Torrance) Brown Bag meeting on January 18th we'll hear all about it - the fundraising, the campaigning, communicating with the voters - from someone who's been there, done that, and lost!



Don't miss this rare opportunity! Mark your calendars!

This 12-1:30 p.m. event which will be held at Katy Geissert Public Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd, in Torrance, is free. Bring your own lunch, and coffee and cookies will be provided.

For future updates about this event visit www.beachvoter.org

-Doris Rosenberg, Tri-League Representative

Supervisor Burke Inspires Inglewood High Senior Girls

"Should people who are illegally in the United States have driver's licenses?" Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke asked her audience. "How many think so? Raise your hands." The senior girls of Inglewood High School stirred in their seats, looked around at one another. A few hands went up, others followed. "How many think they shouldn't?"

"How many of you think marriage is only between a man and a woman?" "If you were not born in the United States, should you be able to run for President?" Hands rose and fell as apathy gave way to a ripple of controversy. "If you want to have a voice either way," Supervisor Burke said, "you should register to vote, and you should find out where the candidates stand on these issues."

Supervisor Burke's appearance at a girls-only assembly at Inglewood High on Wednesday, October 6 resulted from a request to the Beach Cities League from Jacqueline Zollar, Social Studies Chair. Concerned that girls in their final year of high school tended to become apathetic - and all too often pregnant - Ms. Zollar asked us to find a woman politician of color who could inspire the girls to see their own potential for becoming self-directed women with the power to make an impact.

Supervisor Burke proved to be an excellent choice. She established rapport with her audience from the start, telling them her first campaign for office was a successful run for class president at Manual Arts High School. She went on to be the first African American woman among only three women in the California State Assembly in 1966, where she served three terms before being elected to the U.S. Congress. She was the first member of Congress to have a baby while in office.

Irma Cohen, LWVBC Outreach, and I were thrilled to share the stage with the Supervisor and have the pleasure of watching the girls' reactions to her sharing of experiences and the questions she threw out to them. At the beginning of the program, when we were asked to say a few words about "what the League is all about," we stressed that when the League was formed 84 years ago American women had only just won the right to vote after a long hard fight in which they were ridiculed and humiliated, went to jail and risked their lives, and that in some countries women are still not allowed to vote. We expressed hope that some of the Inglewood senior girls might later join us in our mission to help women and all citizens be effective participants in the political process. -Henrietta Mosley, LWVBC President

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 — both men and women of voting age — are welcome to join! The annual membership fee is \$45 (\$67.50 for household memberships), which is not tax-deductible. Donations to the Beach Cities LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible.

TO JOIN TODAY, just send this form and 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 _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

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

Name (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Yes, please sign up me up to receive my Beach Voter newsletter electronically!

For more membership info, contact Susan Grebe, LWVBC Membership Chair, at susan@beachvoter.org or 310-545-2097.

Volunteer Help Wanted Ads

ACTION ADVOCATES WANTED

Advocates who have an interest or expertise in one or more of the League's positions, whether local, county, state or national, to serve on an action committee.

Advocates will monitor news reports or pending legislation in their special area and respond to calls to action when needed.

The state positions - covering a broad range of topics - are included as inserts in this Voter for your review. National positions cover a wide variety of subjects, such as reproductive rights, trade, gun control, and government issues. Transportation and election procedures are among the many county positions.

Please contact Jan Nathanson, Action Chair, at 310-643-6247 or jan@beachvoter.org

LOCAL MEETING MONITORS NEEDED

An inquisitive observer to attend, take notes and report back on any of the these public meetings:

- a. Plaza El Segundo development
- b. Plans for use of \$600,000/per yr. refund of excess property tax contributions for Manhattan Beach Library
 - Library Commission meeting on Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. to develop a recommendation to the City Council
 - City Council meeting on December 21
- c. Hermosa Beach Library - Monitor any meetings on similar issues in Hermosa Beach

Know any issues of interest to our 6 cities that we should follow, and you want to cover? We want to hear from you! Please contact Henrietta Mosley at 310-379-4591 or henrietta@beachvoter.org

SCHOOL OUTREACH BRAINSTORMERS SOUGHT

Creative minds to give us their ideas on good citizenship projects the League could offer to schools. Also to suggest groups that might want to develop such projects with us.

Please contact Irma Cohen, LWVBC Outreach, at 310-939-0946 or incohen@adelphia.net

CANDIDATES FORUM A SUCCESS

On October 17, The League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities and Torrance co-sponsored a successful candidates forum for the U.S. Representative District 36 and the California State Assembly Member District 53. Approximately a hundred people were in attendance to hear the candidates speak and answer questions from the audience. The forum was shown on South Bay cable TV channels.

Kudos to Susan Grebe and Peggy Bartlett for so capably taking over in my absence and to LWVBC's own moderator extraordinaire Carol Wagner Vallianos.

-Linda Mack, LWVBC Voter Service Co-Chair

GREAT RESOURCE

Want to know all the outcomes of the recent elections? Find the most complete and up to date LWVBC Calendar? Find useful resources and links to other CA Leagues?

Visit our website:

www.beachvoter.org

Special thanks to our truly extraordinary members who made this such a banner election season!

To those who registered voters and handed out League information at the Old Hometown Fair: Kate Alson, Barbara Arlow, Dianne Barrow, Barbara Hammer, Janis Hirohama, Michelle Murphy, Jan Nathanson, Sunhee Park, Doris Rosenberg, Jason Suchman, Mignon Thiem-Murphy, and Maggie Wilkinson.

To Barbara Arlow who distributed the LWV Election Guide around all six Beach Cities, fielded teams for eleven pros and cons presentations and responded to innumerable other Voters Service calls and requests.

To Jason Suchman, Henrietta E. Mosley, Janis Hirohama, Susan Grebe, June Eicker, Barbara Arlow, and Kate Alson who presented the ballot measures with creativity and evident depth of knowledge.

To Sunhee Park, who generated unprecedented publicity for all our election efforts.

-Henrietta E. Mosley & Wendy Phillips,
LWVBC Co-Presidents



Peggy Bartlett and Jan Nathanson were two of our volunteers who helped serve up homemade brownies and krispy krittlers to pleased customers and supporters at our baked goods booth at the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair this year. How sweet it was!!

RECEIVE YOUR BEACH VOTER NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL! Contact Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org to sign up!

Maggie Wilkinson and Janis Hirohama were part of the group who staffed the League's vital new booth ...



THE LWVBC'S NEW information booth at the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair!!
It provided us good visibility, and provided fairgoers important election info.

The info booth was a **great** addition, providing a much needed non-partisan resource! We registered voters, & gave out info on the upcoming election and LWVBC.

BEST YEAR YET FOR MB FAIR SALES!!

We had the greatest year ever at the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair! We want to thank every one of you for your continued support in making this two day event for us!

We made a profit of \$1,310.00 this year. We had just the right amount of brownies and krispie krittlers to finish the day on Sunday. To add to the sales income we also had some very generous cash donations.

This fundraiser is only successful because all the baked goods are donated by our members. Mignon generously contributes all the items needed in the booth and George, her husband, sets up the booth and dismantles it at the close. What would we do without them?! And a special thanks to all of you that served in the booth this year— Linda Mack, Jan Nathanson, Henrietta Mosley, Ann Martin, Doris Rosenberg, Valma Evans, Jeanne Leuschner, Janis Hirohama, Susan Grebe, June Eicker, Maggie Wilkinson, Barbara Arlow and Harriet Chase.

Mignon and I would also like to thank all of you who participated whether you helped with the fair preparations, baked, contributed money, or just patronized us on fair days. As many of you know this financial project is necessary for our League to exist and we couldn't do it without you! - Mignon Thiem Murphy and Peggy Bartlett,

Hometown Fair Sweets Booth Chairs

Local News

EDUCATION CONSENSUS MEETING, PART 2

Come Decide How California Schools Should Be Governed!



- * Is student assessment helping improve the quality of education & learning?
- * Which functions of governance should be locally controlled?
- * Which functions of governance are best reserved for the state?
- * Is it the state's responsibility to provide equitable chances for teaching & learning systemwide?

Join Us, Monday, November 29th, 7- 8:45 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Public Library to discuss these questions and more...

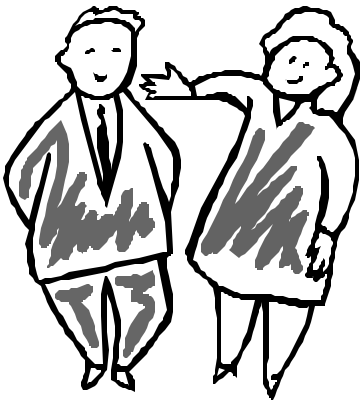
This is the second in a two-part meeting to reach a consensus on education-related issues. **All are welcome!**
(For parking information please visit: www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us)

- Harriet Chase, Chair, Education Committee

Membership News

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We have three new members this month! Warm welcomes to Margaret Thelen and Susan Leavitt of Manhattan Beach, and William Lambert Lyon of Redondo Beach. William joined at the National level and Margaret attended the Chocolate Party. We have a 100% record on the Chocolate Party attendees. Six new members attended and all six joined. Go Irma!!



SHARE YOUR E-MAIL WITH US!

E-mail addresses provide a wonderful & quick way to keep our members informed & involved!

We send out *Calls to Action* or reminders of upcoming events. If you have an e-mail address and would like to be included ***please send it to Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org***. Your e-mail will also be added to the directory which will be coming out next month. ***Our policy is that all addresses are for LWV use only & are never shared with other organizations.***

Would YOU like one less piece of mail delivered to your home?

Anyone who wishes to receive the Voter electronically ***should contact Susan Grebe, susan@beachvoter.org***. The Voter is always available on website, and we will e-mail you an alert when the new Voter has been posted. All you will need to do is simply click on a link that will take you to the new Voter!

-Susan Grebe & Valma Evans, LWVBC Membership

DEBATING WHAT TO GIVE TO FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

GIVE THE GIFT OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!

GOOD FOR MEN & WOMEN OF VOTING AGE - THIS PRESENT LASTS A FULL YEAR & BENEFITS INCLUDE: A NEWSLETTER, A NATIONAL MAGAZINE, ENTRY TO LOTS OF EVENTS & WAYS TO VOLUNTEER, & ACCESS TO LOTS OF GREAT INFO. **SIGN UP TODAY ON PG. 4!**

Nov. 29 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Education Update Consensus Meeting, Part 2 This is the second in a two-part meeting to reach a consensus on education-related issues. See page 7!	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Ave Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Dec. 11 Saturday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Holiday Program Planning Meeting & Get Together Help review & prioritize our LWVBC state positions and let our leaders know which issues are of most concern to us. Our meeting will be followed by a holiday pot-luck lunch. Please see page 3 for details!	Home of Ann Martin 921 Roswell Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 310-372-2823
Jan. 18 Tuesday	12- 1:30 p.m.	Brown Bag Meeting: The Price of Justice. Join the Tri-League (Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, & Torrance) for a meeting regarding campaigning for judicial office. Our speaker will be Hon. Douglas Carnahan, and our moderator will be Carole Wagner Vallianos. (Pg. 3)	Katy Geissert Public Library 3301 Torrance Blvd Torrance, CA 90503
Jan. 24 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Land Use and Transportation This will be a discussion about the proposed Plaza El Segundo development at Rosecrans and Sepulveda.	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Ave Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Feb. 28 Monday	7- 8:45 p.m.	Membership Meeting: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) This is a relevant, and timely discussion about election and voting issues. How can we improve the system?	Manhattan Beach Public Library 1320 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

This Beach Voter was printed by The Copy Shop, 309 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, 310-374-3666



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