



the **VOTER**

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League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County

Spring 2010

We are the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
an organization of
WOMEN AND MEN
who want to
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
in the political future
of our country.
We are a
DIVERSE, NON-PARTISAN
POLITICAL GROUP
with a longstanding tradition of
EDUCATING VOTERS.

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LEAGUE CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THREE LEGENDARY WOMEN

February 14 marked the League's 90th anniversary and in just six months we will also celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment.

In 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters. With an emphasis on non-partisanship, thorough study and dedication to a 'grassroots' system, the League set out to encourage voter participation, educate voters by offering both sides on issues and advocate for policy measures that would be most beneficial for the most people.

Initially, the League focused on the status and rights of women, but with the passage of time it became clear that every issue is a 'woman's issue'. Today, the League works to effect change on a wide variety of topics including health care, education, climate change, land use, ethics in government and election and campaign finance reform.

Locally, for close to 57 years our League has been discussing the important issues, asking the difficult questions, demanding accountability from our local government and making things happen.

Our League began in 1953 and graduated to full League status in 1954. Ruth Brill was President of the new League and they immediately began taking action. Their first accomplishments included a City requirement that all sidewalks be included in residential neighborhood plans and they were instrumental in creating the position of Traffic Engineer to work on City traffic planning.

On the County level, our League urged the creation of the County Executive Officer position. They supported the creation of a County Adoption Agency which still operates today. Riverside's Jefferson House for chronic mental illness began with a League study. Another local League study of the California aqueduct prompted action to save the Santa Ana River. After an arduous battle, the river is now considered saved.

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LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 1

Our League has been at the forefront of ethics reform, education, transportation and air quality issues. Over the years we have held countless candidate forums, hosted public information meetings and distributed thousands of voter information guides.

We take our legacy of voter education and advocacy very seriously. In fact, our dedication makes the League *the* organization where hands-on civic involvement leads to civic improvement.

Please join us for a special celebration at our 90th Anniversary Luncheon on Friday, March 26th. Details are included in this *Voter*.

With special emphasis, the current Board would like to thank you for your membership in the League of Women Voters. With your help we will continue to Make Democracy Work!

*Joan Donahue, President LWV NRC
Ruth Wilson, Former President and
50-year LWV NRC Member*



The California LWV strongly supports the California Fair Elections Act so that elected officials can focus on governing instead of fundraising. Support this campaign for a pilot project for voluntary public financing of Secretary of State races in 2014 and 2018. The new Supreme Court ruling makes public financing even more necessary.

HELP THE CENSUS; HELP REDISTRICTING

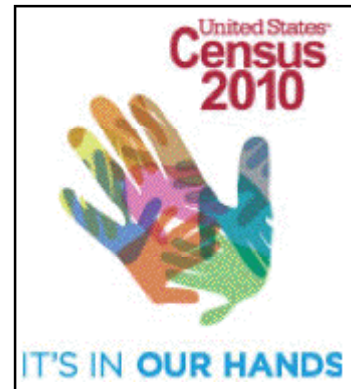
*By LWV Board Member
Theresa Birkett*

***Well, we did it!
Congratulations!***

The Voters FIRST Act, Redistricting, was passed by the voters in

November of 2008. This Act authorized the creation of a Citizens Redistricting Commission. The redistricting takes place every 10 years after the Census. In prior years, our legislature drew district lines. The people now have the power. It is time to take ACTION.

The Citizens Redistricting Commission was accepting applications from December 15, 2009 to February 12, 2010. If you missed the opportunity it is not too late. You can become a census taker. A census taker is an official employee of the Census Bureau who is responsible for personally collecting information from residences in their neighborhood that have not sent back the 2010 Census form. They're tasked with asking the 10 questions on the form, recording the information and then submitting it to the Census Bureau. This is a great opportunity for League members to get involved. We want to make our efforts for redistricting reform count. The more information the Census Bureau collects, the better decision making the Redistricting Commission can make. Call this number to apply today **1-866-861-2010**. They need you!



WWW.RIVERSIDELEAGUE.COM

WOMEN WALK FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By Sylvia Martin Names, LWV Member



Members of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County responded to a call for women to walk in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 17th Annual Walk-A-Thon on January 18, 2010. The response was impressive. Several offered contact numbers for friends while others called directly. Any of the slogans that have united women through the years apply to every woman who joined this group. One suggestion offered was that women don't have "come together" time often and need that unscripted time to gain other perspectives on their activities. That was a suggestion that the women wanted. It was a suggestion that was a winner. Virginia Blumenthal was unable to attend and Mitzy Fernandez represented her office. In addition to having Mitzy join us, Virginia organized a group of women who donated money to the African American Historical Society that established the march years ago. The power and wisdom of women shines bright.

The Friday gathering was a heart-felt event in every way. That it had been agreed upon just two days before seemed to add to the sense that this was a special time. The sharing was rooted in what was said as each spoke of the effect that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had had, not only on their life, but that of their parents, siblings, husbands, and children. Edith Quevedo had rapt attention as she relayed that she and her husband planned a trip to Washington D.C. to join the thousands from across the country in the march. They were a part of that mass of humanity listening to the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. As she spoke, there was an almost reverent atmosphere in the room. With each telling, that was the feeling. Judith Auth spoke of the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham, Alabama and the inscription it bears. She spoke firmly that Dr. Martin Luther King's life was an embodiment of that belief. Gladys Walker believes that when she was a single parent who had been in the military and decided she was going to return to college to be better prepared for raising her daughter, that, as she listened and watched Dr. King her fortitude increased. Joan Donahue and Chani Beeman spoke of watching the many young people and how their actions were a part of the legacy of Dr. King. Joan stated that she would discuss what was on television with her little girl with the hope that her daughter would better understand our country.

Barbara Purvis's father was in the military and she had attended the schools in Washington as well as college and then earned her law degree. She recognized that the changes in law that resulted from Dr. King's messages and the struggles of so many were monumental. Linnie Bailey has recognized for a long time that, even though she was quite young, things that she heard and saw are the reasons that politics and the persons are the focus of her involvement in community activities. She and her husband instill in their daughter and son that achieving at their highest level is what they must strive for because much of Dr. King's teachings emphasized education. Cecilia Fairfax was a little girl, when her family lived only a few blocks from Dr. King and his family in Chicago. From what she saw on the television and what she heard from neighbors, she knew that the family was struggling to make life better for her people and others. Paulette Brown-Hinds remembers that each summer, her family drove to her father's home in North Carolina. Along the way, they visited museums, libraries, and monuments. Those visits were discussed at dinner as well as politicians of the time. When she was a professor at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, she was strengthened in her teaching through the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Gladys Brown was raised in Chicago in a family of ministers who were also well-known community activists.

A BOND FOR WATER?

By Betty Anderson
LWV NRC Board Member

Even though we have had a wet winter, all the water cannot compensate for three years of drought. Most water districts throughout the state especially here in Southern California have some sort of water conservation ordinance. Southern California is heavily dependent on State Water Project water delivered through Metropolitan Water District. Those Districts not using imported water directly use this water to replenish local ground water basins. These deliveries of imported water have been severely cut because of the issues in the Delta and the drought.

The “Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2010,” a Water Bond, has been approved by the state legislature and signed by the Governor as SB2 (Cogdill) for voter consideration on the November 2010 statewide ballot. The Water bond proposes \$11.14 Billion in general obligation bonds to support comprehensive water system investments essential to maintain California’s environmental health and economic vitality. The Water Bond includes funding for additional surface and groundwater storage, a comprehensive Delta solution (including conveyance solutions) and water use efficiency investments including conservation, desalination, recycled water and storm water capture.

This issue is sure to be controversial because of the cost. Therefore, it is essential that the voters understand as much as possible about this bond. The following link (<http://www.water.ca.gov/news/archive/legislation2009.cfm>) provides several more links that will explain why this bond will be before the voters in November.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk *Continued from Page 3*

Education and community and the many events Dr. Martin Luther King organized and their outcomes remain with her as she continues her professional career. Enici Naghsihineh is from Iran and in a strong, firm voice, stated clearly that people in Iran know about Dr. King, his life, and his teachings. Many Iranians share his beliefs that people can achieve together and overcome wrongs that occurred. Georgia Elliott is a proud and happy grandmother who will walk with her daughter and grandchildren in the walk-a-thon. The recent death of her husband, University Professor Emory Elliott, whose intense and effective world-wide recruiting efforts increased the number of diverse faculty at the University of California, Riverside, and the beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King that are reflected in her husband’s Center for Ideas and Society at the UCR campus, are what makes the walk special.

Eliza Daniely-Woolfolk and Wanda Scruggs emphasized that Dr. King was a man of incredible faith who was proud that he was a religious man. Wanda stressed that it was his religion that motivated his actions. Eliza reminded everyone that the famous letter he wrote to ministers while in prison was his response to those who criticized him for his political stance. The “Letter From the Birmingham Jail” was addressed to fellow ministers and, particularly, those who were upset about his opposition to the Vietnam War. The letter is not only compassionate writing but remains a testimony to what faith makes possible for teachings that translate into action. Karen Wilson was emphatic that Dr. King was a brilliant man who was also a great man. She stated that she had some difficulty with the idea that he came into the world with something other individuals did not have. Her sense is that it was the things that he encountered in his life that should be the focus of his life. Knowing those things in depth would help everyone understand how he became the great man the he was.

The marching on the Monday following this memorable Friday added meaning to the League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County.

VOLUNTEERING AT A C.A.R.E. CLINIC

By LWV Member Katie Greene

Few probably know what the acronym C.A.R.E means and I confess I just recently learned what it means. It stands for “*Communities Are Responding Everyday.*” I was intrigued when I heard MSNBC television talk show host Keith Olbermann feature and discuss the free health care clinics occurring in cities in the United States sponsored by the National Association of Free Clinics. On several segments of his show last year, Mr. Olbermann showed unending lines of people waiting to avail themselves of much needed *free* health care being provided by an all volunteer staff.

As a retired Registered Nurse Practitioner this situation not only captured my attention but tugged at my heart. I felt an enormous compassion for the plight of every day fellow Americans and working class people who are without basic health.

Since I had planned a trip to Houston, Texas to visit family for Thanksgiving, I decided to go online, and apply to be a volunteer at a C.A.R.E. Clinic being held in Little Rock, Arkansas. After all, I reasoned, am I not a part of our nation’s “community”? In haste I rushed to access the noted website. I entered in my criteria and qualifications that I am a retired Registered Nurse Practitioner with an active license. I expected to encounter a long complicated and drawn out process before I was accepted as a volunteer. My anxiety was unfounded because I was readily accepted and heartily welcomed.

So, on Saturday, November 21, 2009, I found myself driving the ten hours from Houston, Texas to Little Rock, Arkansas to participate in the CARE Clinic to be held on Sunday at the Arkansas Convention Center. At no time during my long drive (alone), did I regret, second guess or doubt my decision to be a part of the clinic.

Rather, I found myself thanking my Savior that I am at a stage of my life and existence that I am able to be a volunteer, to give back - to be a part of something bigger than myself.

I was scheduled to work from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. My shift consisted of a two hour orientation involving basic logistics and ending with the admonition to “*Always smile, be courteous, keep the patient’s information confidential, and above all respect the patient’s humanity.*” I met Nurses, Doctors and other health care personnel from many states including one male nurse from New York, nurses from Texas, Louisiana, Kansas, Oklahoma , Utah, Virginia, Oklahoma and of course Arkansas. That was only in my section of the worksite, the Convention floor was divided into thirty two different functional sections. Our team included nursing students from several universities in Arkansas, paramedics, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, senior citizens and public school students who volunteered to chaperone patients from station to station. Unintentionally, I became a celebrity and a star of our section, along with the nurse from New York, at every break other volunteers came, they had heard of the distance we had traveled to work at the clinic. So, they sought us out to hear our stories. “What inspired us? they asked. It was a story they wanted to hear, and would likely, I surmised, share with others when they returned home and talked of this day of volunteering and giving.

As had been projected, the patients came. The line had extended two blocks from the Convention Center hours before I arrived at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning. We worked non stop the entire day seeing patients, adults

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The League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County
cordially invites you to a special luncheon

Celebrating the League's 90th Anniversary

“BEYOND THE RIGHT TO VOTE”

Career Journeys of Three Pioneering Women

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

11:30am- 1:00pm

Riverside Convention Center - Arlington Room, 2nd Floor
3443 Orange Street, Downtown Riverside (92501)

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**OFELIA VALDEZ-YEAGER**

*Chief Administrative Liaison, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools*

**ROSE MAYES**

*Executive Director of Fair Housing Council of Riverside County*

**UNDERSHERIFF VALERIE HILL**

*Riverside County Sheriff's Department*

**\$25/PERSON ~ \$15 STUDENTS**

Registration/Payment Options:

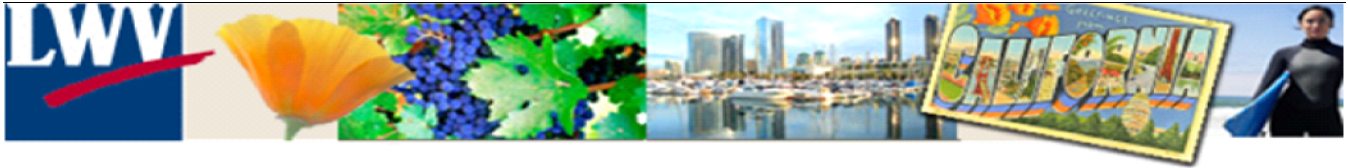
- Register via email at [RIVERSIDELEAGUE@CHARTER.NET](mailto:RIVERSIDELEAGUE@CHARTER.NET).

Please include the names of all guests, including students, telephone number and email address.  
Please indicate that you will pay at the door or mail check in advance to: LWV Northwest Riverside County,  
PO Box 20785, Riverside, CA 92516. Please make checks payable to 'LWVNRC.'

- To pay in advance by check, complete the form on the back page and send to the address shown above.

**RSVPs due by March 23. Reservations not cancelled by noon, Wednesday, March 24 will be billed.**

Please call (951) 479-2090 with any questions or log onto [www.riversideleague.com](http://www.riversideleague.com)



## League of Women Voters of California®

### June 8, 2010 Statewide Primary Election

The California League of Women Voters has released their voting recommendations for the propositions on the June 8, 2010 Primary Ballot.

Descriptions of each proposition and the opinions of those for and against each measure will be published in our *Easy Voter Guide* and at [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org) in March.

#### **SUPPORT Proposition 15: California Fair Elections Act**

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access and shutting out the rest of us. Proposition 15 takes an important step toward getting politicians out of the fundraising game. It is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates. Proposition 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interest, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors.

#### **OPPOSE Proposition 16: New Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers**

Proposition 16 would amend the state Constitution to require a city or special district that provides electricity to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before expanding its service territory or providing new service to its customers if public funds are involved. Two-thirds approval by the voters would also be required for a local government to buy power at wholesale prices to sell to residents through a Community Choice Aggregation program. The LWVC opposes this supermajority vote requirement that would allow a minority to prevent decisions on electric supply favored by a majority of the people to be served. PG&E, the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.

#### **No Recommendation on the other measures on this ballot**

#### **PROPOSITION 13: Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Seismic Retrofitting**

The League generally supports regular, frequent reappraisals for property tax purposes, and this measure excludes certain construction from reappraisal. However, considering the public safety benefit of encouraging seismic retrofits, we remain neutral on this proposal.

#### **PROPOSITION 14: Top-Two Candidate Open Primary**

#### **PROPOSITION 17: Auto Insurance Pricing**

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Propositions 14 and 17, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.



*Volunteering at a C.A.R.E. Clinic*  
*Continued from Page 5*

and children. There were those who were there because they had not seen a doctor “in years” or their child or children had not had health care in years. We saw and treated patients with major health problems such as diabetes, heart problems, kidney problems hypertension, depression, rashes, high cholesterol, and constant headaches to name just a few. There were patients, sometimes whole families, who had been unable to afford treatment or medicine so their medical condition had worsened. Some of the people simply needed a physical examination or refill on their prescription(s) because they had lost their jobs and no longer had health coverage since it was connected to their jobs. Jobs they no longer had.

I am so pleased that we were there for them! Lessons I learned from my experience 1) people are in terrible need of basic healthcare in our country, 2) health insurance coverage connected to employment is not the greatest idea for the USA and 3) it is rewarding and a blessing to have been able to be a Volunteer for the C.A.R.E. Clinic.

I could feel it in my soul and I could sense it in the souls of others I met. I certainly experienced what it meant to contribute to something larger than myself. On my drive back to Houston, I found myself thinking of Mother Teresa’s wise quote “*If you can’t feed one hundred people, then feed just one.*” Ah! Volunteering is so rewarding, I did not help all of America’s medical needy – but I did do something! Mother Teresa would approve!





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON  
MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM**

**\$25 per person // \$15 per student**

*Tickets Will be Held at the Door.*

We need to know two days in advance if you need to cancel your reservation.

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_ DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL : \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE NAMES (IF APPLICABLE) :

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY ATTENDEES ARE STUDENTS? : \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to :**

Please make checks payable to "LWVNR.C."

**LWV Northwest Riverside County**

**P.O. Box 20785 • Riverside, CA 92516-0785**

Questions? Call 951.479.2090 or visit [www.riversideleague.com](http://www.riversideleague.com).