



VOTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... Great Beginnings and League Momentum

HOLD THESE DATES

Sept. 28 LWVLA Speakers Briefing
(see page 5 for details)

Sept. 30 LWV/LAC Briefing

Oct. 28 LWVC Workshop
in Beverly Hills

Dec. 14 LWVLA Holiday Party

Feb. 21 Annual Tribute Event
"Celebrating Leadership"

May 18 LWVC League
Convention in Bakersfield

Great beginnings are at hand for our 2006-2007 year and it's not even fall. Fifteen Board members brought their excitement, ideas and goals to a full day retreat on June 24 -- a preliminary step in shaping our calendar and our mission outreach. You will read more about these impressive goals for Voter Service, Program, Action, Units and off-Board portfolios in this and future VOTERs. As President, I proposed we aim for a 10% increase in membership; focus on partnership and coalition building; strengthen our transition process among officers and portfolio chairs to preserve institutional memory and effectiveness; outreach to a more diverse population and pursue more action in our policy areas.

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Revolving Door II in July was another terrific start. Although planned in the spring, it served as a kickoff to our new year. What a powerful, engaging, model event it was! The expertise in the panelists, the riveting style of confronting information with real-life scenarios, young people who knew the justice system from the applied side and an audience of great variety made this the liveliest League Day in years.

The Campaign Watch Commission, initiated with the help of our League, has not been called upon to act on campaign complaints in several years. In July its members met and decided to invigorate and expand its important mission to set standards of decency, honesty and fair play for the electoral process affecting Los Angeles voters. (continued on next page)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued)

These standards are enforced when a candidate requests that the Commission investigate allegations of dirty tricks during a campaign. If the allegations are found to be accurate, the Commissioners report the findings to the press for immediate distribution to voters who then take these findings into account when they vote. The Commission's work is unique: its new vitality bodes well.

Already the Education Fund Board fundraising committee has met to initiate activities to create another exceptional Awards Dinner, February 21, 2007. For the benefit of the sponsors and for the purpose of recruiting new *Civic Society* level support of the League, a third salon is being planned for this fall. The League's handbook on Los Angeles city operations -- *Structure of a City* -- is going to press after two years of fruitful collaboration among dedicated League members, author Raphael Sonenshein, and the Haynes Foundation. We will soon be able to educate on up-to-date Charter reform information.

The new beginning initiated in last year's action agenda brings us not to new issues but to new levels. Articles in this VOTER highlight these issues. The campaign on behalf of a universal health care plan for California involves LWVLA in at least four events, the first in August. The campaign to educate Angelenos in advocating for full public campaign financing in Los Angeles is heating up. LWVLA will partner vigorously to support this campaign. As reported in the news, LWVLA has partnered with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce to form, put forward, and campaign for a ballot measure which will do three things: 1) bring an extension of term limits from two to three terms to City Council members; 2) enhance the Ethics Commission's mandate by curbing disproportionate influence of lobbyists on electeds and candidates, and 3) bring better transparency to elections by identifying campaign contributors to the voter before the vote. Our effort to present a set of reforms to voters on November's ballot has taken significant steps forward.

How these reforms will be presented to the voter is not yet clear as of this VOTER deadline because the City Council and Mayor must agree on the final version. But our determination to offer the voters an opportunity to rethink the number of terms their city council members should have and reform key lobbying and campaign practices is certain.

New leadership, clear goals and movement begun on important arenas translate into new beginnings, great expectations and momentum for an exceptional League year.

-Liza White, President

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Education Committee is still in the process of identifying the scope of the study we expect will last approximately two years. We have narrowed the topic to governance, structure and organization, and allocation of resources. We are gathering data and studying issues in these three areas. Because of the rushed nature of the Mayor's plan to reform LAUSD, LWVLA has established a separate committee, chaired by Jean Cohen, to determine if the League should take action on AB 1381. The study committee welcomes anyone interested in exploring the issues of our public school system. Please contact Fran Lapidés, 818-883-5874 (flapides@socal.rr.com), if you are interested in joining the two-year study committee.

-Fran Lapidés, Education Committee Chair

FROM THE EDITOR...

"...Becoming powerful requires getting noticed. Visibility is a precursor to access and recognition and is key to the formation of strategic alliances." (*The Leadership Challenge*, Kouzes & Posner p.198-199.)

In this first issue as Editor of the VOTER, I've borrowed from Stephen Covey's format in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* to identify principles our committees employ to achieve LWVLA's 2006-2007 goals and to demonstrate how to use the VOTER as a tool to empower our committees.

LWVLA educates citizens to Take Proactive Roles - Covey principle #1. Being proactive is to take responsibility, expand influence, and effect change. As we move into the fall elections, the role of the LWVLA as a nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating voters, becomes all-important. VOTER articles reflect our study and action committees performing their roles and asking the important questions.

Jean Thomson's article adroitly outlines how the Revolving Door/Justice Committee adheres to Covey principle #2 - Beginning with the End in Mind. Jean's committee began with a vision of L.A.'s youth, in school, becoming productive members of a society within an education and justice system operating to generate a bright future for the next generation. The committee then studied the reality. The VOTER article amplifies the committee's accomplishments.

Demonstrating Covey principle #3, First Things First, LWVLA Board knows that two key priorities not only to survive but thrive are 1) growing our membership and 2) embracing innovative ways to educate voters so members of every age group are provided opportunities to develop personally and professionally through substantive, exciting, civic engagement. VOTER articles promote that we educate voters to care about the outcome of the elections and vote, because we know the tests of a healthy democracy are voter turnout and "consent of the governed." VOTER articles are tools to raise awareness of our resources internally and to share them with our external partners.

Covey's principle #4 is Think Win/Win in all Human Interaction – attending to the little things, the kindnesses and the courtesies of acknowledging everyone's contributions and helping wherever help is needed. Win/win calls for being inclusive and noncompetitive.

Principle #5 is Seek First to Understand. LWVLA committee chairs organize governance and action projects to ensure empathic communication – listening, getting close enough to understand, diagnosing before prescribing. The VOTER expands our sphere of influence through improved communication – electronic, public, and personal. Every committee chair knows that the VOTER reaches far beyond her committee, sharing data learned from the "road warriors" who staff our committees and report with careful notes from all parts of greater Los Angeles.

Principle #6 - Synergize. Synergy "catalyzes, unifies and unleashes the greatest powers within people." LWVLA generates partnerships with other organizations and meets with their leaders. By sharing existing resources with our peers at all levels in other organizations, LWVLA creates wholes greater than the sums of the parts. Hard copies and electronic VOTERS, document and share our achievements far beyond committee activities.

Principle #7 is Sharpen the Saw - Self Renewal. Stephen Covey tells the story of a man in the woods working feverishly for five hours to saw down a tree. When asked, "Why don't you take a break for a few minutes to sharpen that saw?" the man replied, "I'm too busy sawing." LWVLA members take time to "sharpen the saw" and build our assets. VOTER articles highlight LWVLA's efficient, effective performance.

At the end of every accomplishment, committee chairs and members take time to write brief articles for the VOTER to ensure they have assessed where they were, where they are, where they are going. They share that self-recognition with the many readers of the VOTER. I am grateful for this opportunity to work and learn, assisted by the VOTER Editorial Committee, Estelle Markowitz, Jean Cohen, Ruth Horgan and Ellen Glettner.

-Lynn Crandall, VOTER Editor

POPOVERS IN PASADENA: Meeting the Challenge of Health Care

Lola Unger, LWV/LAC President, presided at the County League's annual Popovers in Pasadena on Saturday, July 29, at the Women's City Club in Pasadena. The Land Use Consensus to retain the existing LWV/LAC land use position was approved with slight changes.

Several workshops were held. I attended the Redistricting Action Workshop, led by Chris Carson, Government Dir. for LWVC. SCA 3 (Lowenthal) redistricting bill will be voted on the Senate floor on August 10. There will be an Action Alert on SCA 3 asking League members to call their Senators to vote for SCA 3. Upon Senate passage, the bill will move to the Assembly floor, and if it passes there, it will then go to the Governor for his signature.

There are 13 statewide ballot measures for November 2006. The infrastructure measures are in trouble according to the latest poll. LWVC has positions on 11 measures, neutral on two measures. LWVC is asking individual leagues to go to their boards to find out which measures to work on.

LWVC has two propositions earmarked as high priorities:

YES on Proposition 89, California Nurses Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006, Public Financing of Campaigns and Corporate Tax Increase. LWVC has signed the rebuttal and is a member of the campaign steering committee. This measure would allow candidates running for office to receive public campaign funding by meeting certain eligibility requirements. Funding would be provided by a 0.2 percent increase in corporate income tax. This measure also imposes new limits on campaign contributions and places new restrictions on contributions by corporations and lobbyists. The League vigorously supports practices which will enable candidates to

compete more equitably for public office and which place realistic limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.

NO on Proposition 90. Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property. This measure redefines the eminent domain process in ways that will make it difficult for government to protect the environment. It will likely increase costs to taxpayer for implementation of environmental protection laws. The measure is in part vaguely worded, which will likely result in extensive litigation.

LWVC is making available a new hand-out, "Funding California Infrastructure," that explains why we need the infrastructure bonds. This will be available August 10 online. Speakers for "Meeting the Challenge of Health Care" were Emily Gold, staff representative for State Senator Sheila Kuehl, author of SB 840 and Dr. Ellin Lieberman, South Pasadena President, Health Care for All. They presented an update of SB 840 and the OneCareNow Campaign.

-Cecilia Schlesinger, ACTION Chair

SMART VOTER RECOGNIZED BY LWVUS

Smart Voter, the innovative online voter service program developed by LWV California, received a Voter Education Award at the 2006 LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis. The award, recognizing excellence in 'enhancing voter participation,' was received by Robbie Davis, Chair of LWVUS's Education Fund. Program awards were also presented in the areas of Citizen Engagement, Reform and Diversity. All recipients were chosen by a panel of three independent judges.

Now in its tenth year of successful operation, Smart Voter is providing links to general information for voters in all states. This is in addition to the detailed material available on candidates and issues in California and Ohio. Check it out at www.smartvoter.org.

- Frances Talbott-White, Smart Voter SoCal Liaison

SMART VOTER: More Information on Judicial Candidates Available

Concurrent with the statewide primary election in every even-numbered year, Los Angeles County brings a third of its 429 Superior Court judgeships up for re-election along with any judges who have been appointed during the previous two years. Most of these incumbent judges are not challenged. When a judge chooses the end of a term to retire or resign, however, candidates are eager to file for the empty seat. Thus we inevitably get enough judicial elections to baffle the average voter.

November runoffs will be required for the four judgeships where no candidate received a majority of votes cast. Unfortunately, many voters will flip coins, choose at random or simply skip the judicial section of their ballots. Those who find their way to SmartVoter.org will see that all eight runoff candidates have posted their campaign information on this comprehensive League site.

On Smart Voter, candidates are able to post their photos, bios, political priorities, lists of endorsers, and up to three position papers at absolutely no cost to themselves. By typing in an address and zip code, voters can easily access information about all the candidates and issues on their ballots without even knowing the candidates' names.

In this election season, it's easy to act on your commitment to informing the electorate. Tell everyone to use Smart Voter!

**- Frances Talbott-White, LWVLA Voter
Service Chair**

BALLOT SPEAKERS BRIEFING SEPT. 28

Westwood Methodist Church
Abundant parking available

r.s.v.p. to Frances Talbott-White
talbwhite@yahoo.com (310-397-4970)

CALL TO ACTION

The LWVLA Action Committee is restructuring to manage the many issues for action for 2006-07. The Committee is recruiting action-oriented members to help with many exciting issues we're engaging in this year.

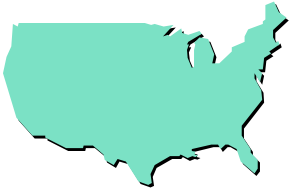
Issues for Action:

- **OneCareNow**, a 365-day campaign, for passage of SB 840, the California Health Insurance Reliability Act, which will provide comprehensive health care to all residents.
- **City Government Responsibility, Lobbying and Reform Act**, authored by LWVLA and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. The Los Angeles City Council voted July 18, to draft an ordinance to put the city ethics and term limits measure on the November 7 ballot. A second vote took place August 4.
- **Full Public Finance**, also known as the Clean Money Campaign for City Officials. We have been sponsoring town hall meetings to raise public awareness and understanding of full public financing of campaigns.
- **LAUSD Governance**. We are carefully monitoring the events evolving daily regarding the proposed mayoral takeover of LAUSD.
- **Ballot Measures**. There are 13 statewide ballot measures for November election, 10 of which we either support or oppose.
- **Redistricting**. This is a state issue we are asked to contact our state legislators to urge them to support SCA 3 (Lowenthal) redistricting bill.
- **Annual Legislative Interviews**. Each year League members interview their state legislators. This allows the League and the legislators a chance to meet and exchange ideas. The interviews give legislators an opportunity to learn about League positions and to share their ideas and priorities with us.

Although we have members signed up for this endeavor, we seek additional action oriented members to participate in these exciting issues. If interested or need more information, please email at action@lwvlosangeles.org or call the office at 213/368-1616.

-Cecilia Schlesinger, ACTION Chair

DO IMMIGRANTS REALLY TAKE OUR JOBS?



With the upcoming League study on Immigration in mind, several of us attended a forum presented by the Zocalo “Public Square” Lecture Series, produced by the *LA Times* and Central Library. The following is a short report on the comments heard by the attendees.

Moderator was Andres Martinez, Editor of the Editorial Page of the *LA Times* and the panelists were: Jack Kyser, Chief Economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation; Connie Rice, Civil Rights Attorney, Advancement Project; Fernando Guerra, Director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles; and Erin Aubrey Kaplan, Op Ed columnist for the *LA Times*.

Although the common theme of immigrants taking jobs from Americans was mentioned, there were many other views expressed. It was suggested that immigrants also create jobs—we need more teachers to handle the influx of children, more nurses to work in the hospitals, health care facilities, etc. Although the economy is slowing down, it was suggested we do not currently have a large unemployment problem; businesses instead are having trouble finding enough qualified workers. Anyone who can read and write English and use a computer can find a job. Most of our unemployment relates to jobs moving, rather than immigrants taking the jobs.

Immigration is always the scapegoat—whether the Chinese, the Germans, the Irish, the Italians. There is a cyclical trend with new immigrants always replacing those on the same economic scale. This may often mean the unskilled laborer, but it has also meant the engineers, programmers, etc., replaced by skilled immigrants (H-1B visas). There is always anxiety when a neighborhoods and/or job market changes for whatever reason. When we organize institutional

procedures in schools, prisons, etc. on race, trouble begins.

Help Mexico create a decent economy; make it easier for ex-inmates to get jobs; increase the job base rather than worry about workers entering the system, were also suggested. Reframe the argument; make the pie bigger, don't fight over a portion of the pie. A final observation was that Los Angeles and California both require substantive economic policies.

Only 40 years ago, Los Angeles was the whitest city in the country. Now it is the most multi-ethnic in the world—and many other cities and countries envy us for our multi-cultural relationships and the relative assimilation of immigrants. What are we to do with 10-12 million people? As a donor state (for every \$1 to the federal government, we get 79 cents back), it would be an economic impossibility to send them all out of the country.

There are, of course, many discussion groups, public forums, television programs covering this topic that many of us will listen and attend. Perhaps a running commentary of what we hear would be in order. There is a major series on Immigration on KCET which can be seen at <http://www.kcet.org/lifeandtimes/features.php>.
-Jean Thomson, Cecilia Schlesinger and Frances Talbott-White, Attendees

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposals to alleviate the multiple problems of the diverse homeless population in Los Angeles are in the news. There are 88,000 county-wide; 20,000 in the city on Skid Row and throughout the city. They include the chronically homeless with substance abuse and/or mental health problems and those temporarily homeless, including families of women and children.

The state and city housing bonds on this November's ballot both contain designated amounts for these populations and amounts for

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING (continued)

other low- and middle-income groups. The Mayor has already allocated funds for 687 affordable housing units. Proposition 63 mental health funds can be used for low income housing, accompanied by intensive social services, including rehabilitation and job training. A group of state, county and city elected officials and housing authority's staff visited New York City's successful housing with social services program. The challenge is to convince the chronically homeless to enter such programs instead of living on the street.

City law enforcement wants to reduce crime, such as drug selling on Skid Row, without illegally evicting other homeless people. The city's steam cleaning of the sidewalks in this area does displace the homeless people and their possessions. The City is appealing an April, 2006, federal appeals court decision which held that arresting homeless people for sleeping, sitting or lying on sidewalks when other shelter is not available, was cruel and unusual punishment. Special housing courts are being set up at several sites in the county to resolve misdemeanors by homeless people, such as littering, by offering support services instead of jail time.

Proposals for a moratorium on demolition of low income housing, such as Single Room Occupancy hotels downtown, are moving forward. Housing and Homelessness advocacy groups are working on sustaining federal funding Section 8 subsidized rental units and publishing a guidebook on the rights of these units' tenants, including the disabled. Historically in Los Angeles, the targeted number of subsidized rental units in new developments, such as Warner Center in the San Fernando Valley, was never achieved. (See in this VOTER under Positions-Homelessness and Housing.)

-Barbara Braunstein, Consultant

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP

How is Homeland Security Working at Home?- Emergency Preparedness in Los Angeles. LWVLA project finding #4: "The distribution of citizen education material needs to be improved and special outreach efforts need to be focused upon disabled and non-English-speaking residents."

L.A. County has produced a special publication, *Emergency Preparedness-Taking Responsibility for your own Safety-Tips for People with Disabilities and Activity Limitations*. The document provides information to help people with special needs prepare for an emergency. You might be surprised to find that you could benefit from this information. For instance, do you wear glasses or contact lenses? Do you have asthma? Do you take daily medication? Can you quickly get down stairs in limited lighting? Do you have the strength to turn off your utilities if necessary? This publication has tips for all of these conditions. Even if you are fortunate enough to be hale and hearty, it has important information for anyone who is a caregiver or has friends or family who are living alone or in assisted living facilities.

You can access the document at the County website: <http://lacoa.org/esp.htm>, click on ESP Special Publications, you will see this document entitled: *Emergency Preparedness-Taking Responsibility for your own Safety-Tips for People with Disabilities and Activity Limitations* or call the county at (323) 980-2260 and ask for a copy.

Note: In June and in a follow-up article July 9, 2006, the L.A. Times reported that the County had only enough money to print 5000 copies of this document, far less than needed to reach the tens of thousands of people with disabilities living in L.A. County. Consider calling the County and let them know you want this document to be available.

-Lynn Lowry, Project Coordinator

REVOLVING DOOR II SEMINAR IN COLLABORATION WITH L.A. COUNTY PROBATION SYSTEM

The *FIRE! Paintings and Photographs* exhibit greeted guests arriving at the USC Institute of Genetic Medicine for the **Revolving Door II** seminar organized by the LWVLA Justice Committee. Paintings by Camp artists and compelling photographs by Dennis Olanzo Callwood depicted training received by young men at L.A. County Probation Camp Louis Routh. A video presentation of Camp Routh training completed the seminar's theme-based atmosphere.

Arturo Flores, Camp Louis Routh Deputy Probation Officer and exhibit co-curator, explained the fire suppression camp's training tape providing a complete rundown of the selection of these young men, the training required and the prognosis of their transition back to society. The probationers, primarily felons, are referred by the courts to the camp to serve their time. If they misbehave, they are sent back to Juvenile Hall or jail (depending on their age). If they successfully complete the training (earning certificates such as "saw man") and complete their sentences without problems, their record may be expunged--if they so request. Upon graduation, some find jobs with forestry or conservation groups.

The seminar's physical setting, at first somewhat intimidating, tables en banc suggesting an impossible number of people on the dais, came to life as the panel presented a wonderful composite of the criminal justice system portrayed through the eyes of young offenders. Two scenarios illustrated the juvenile and young adult experiences with the system from original arrest through probation. Panelists provided a useful perspective and data on what happens to nonviolent offenders encountering the system for the first or a subsequent time. Talented LWVLA moderator, Fran Lapidés, led the open-minded discussion easily, yet intensely, through the intricacies of the criminal justice system. She elicited a variety of points of view and data from justice system experts: Lisa Alegria and Sara Pineda,

Pacific Lodge Youth Services; Judge Rudy Diaz, CA Superior Court/L.A. County; Arturo Flores, Deputy Probation Officer, Camp Louis Routh; Luis S. Garcia, USC MSW Candidate; Gabriella Schaefer Holt, President L.A. County Probation Commission; Leslie Kenyon, Deputy District Attorney, City of L.A.; Dr. Eva McCraven, Director, Hillview Mental Health Center; Kim McGill, Youth Justice Coalition; Virginia Snapp, Chief Deputy Officer L.A. County Probation Department; Judge Terry Smerling, CA Superior Court/L.A. County; Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, L.A. County Probation Dept.; Lee Tsao, Deputy Public Defender, Office of L.A. County Public Defender; Richard Varrantes, Commander, Court Services Division, L.A. Sheriff's Dept.; Belinda Smith Walker, President, the Girls and Gangs Mentoring Program; Mary Weaver, Executive Director, Friends Outside.

On Target Television Producer, Dorothy Barton taped the seminar and is editing a segment to be aired on Ch. 36. Announcements will be made when the cable station broadcasts are scheduled.

This entertaining, educational seminar formulated questions focused on the web of interconnected problems and solutions, and provided data for the audience to frame pros and cons to address issues of crime and prevention in Los Angeles. Our committee is grateful to our partners at Probation Camp Louis Routh and the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery. The synergy created by this collaboration was noted by many who alluded to the positive energy generated.

Many thanks to the committee, Fran Lapidés, Mary Weaver, Betty Jo Moore, Shirley Kellstrom, Margie Engel and Lynn Crandall, who provided the facility. The Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Nima Long and Soussan Arfaania who provided refreshments. Thanks to Artist Dennis Olanzo Callwood who inspired the FIRE! exhibit, the Camp artists, Dorothy Barton and to all who participated in making this a very special public forum.

-Jean Thomson, Program Planning Co-Chair

POSITIONS IN REVIEW (A Series)

In January, LWVLA will once again be reviewing current positions—this time for local and state. Every two years LWV members are invited to set the agenda for the League for the upcoming biennium. This keeps the work of the League a truly grassroots function. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of the issues where the League will focus its time, talent and money. The enthusiasm and interest of our members make our program vital. Last year, when reviewing both county and national positions, the Program Planning Committee began an experiment—in addition to the listing of positions, we provided information to show how they have been used to advocate our consensus, how they have been pertinent to current events, or used for educational purposes. It being overwhelming to absorb all at once, this year we are going to present the information on the more relevant positions in a series of articles in the VOTER prior to the January meeting. Please keep these summaries for the January Program Review.

Remember, we have two assignments—make recommendations regarding current positions, and make recommendations for 2007-2009 study and/or emphasis.

Local Positions (Part I)

There are 17 major categories in LWVLA local positions with several subsections which can be found in-depth on our website, www.lwvlosangeles.org. If you have an opportunity, please review the full positions there. Four to be discussed in this issue are Cable TV, Police, Homelessness and Housing. More will be presented in the following months.

In order to understand the relevance of our positions today, whenever possible, we will discuss how we came to the consensus, and how we have been able to utilize this in our local political scene or the statewide arena. Additionally, when appropriate, we will indicate the questions that have arisen relating to the topic that our position did not cover.

Cable TV

Our position determined in 1984, reviewed in 1997, is a basic support for public participation in the city cable TV franchise agreements and the enforcement of provisions for local and city-wide public, education and government (PEG) access channels as required by these agreements.

This position has not been challenged until recently. In the storm of controversy over the flurry of corporate mergers and the competitive atmosphere dealing with access to homes or businesses through the combinations of cable, broadband, internet, wireless, satellite and telephone methods, arguments have surfaced on ownership of that access, “net neutrality,” “free internet,” the potential of tiered fees and control of content of all of the above. There are also arguments on who controls all of those methods and contents—government, local companies or nationwide companies. Several companies are attempting to bypass local control. These companies have proposed legislation with both the U.S. Congress and the California legislature to initiate nationwide (or statewide) franchise agreements rather than being subject to local franchise agreements. Our position relates only to the Cable TV local control, but new technologies have changed so much since 1997 that our position is not broad enough to cover these new challenges.

Police

The original position was determined in 1978 generally dealing with the organizational structure of the LAPD, the supervision by the Police Commission, the transfer of permit processing to another department and external investigation of citizen complaints. We also opposed the minimum height requirement of five feet.

The Christopher Commission issued its report in 1991, and in response, LWVLA reviewed our position and came to a consensus. We then (continued on next page)

POSITIONS IN REVIEW

(continued)

co-sponsored a ballot measure to effect these changes, which passed overwhelmingly. Our position now recommends a full-time civilian Police Commission Executive Director (exempt from Civil Service provisions) and limits of two terms of the Police Commission as well as the Chief of Police. It also outlines the recruiting and selection process for the Chief of Police.

Many things have happened since 1992. After the Rampart Division scandals, a consent decree was established basically relating to complaints of force. Although it has been considered an effective incentive to substantially improve the conduct of the officers and the accountability of the department, it is still in effect. Some parts of our original position have not yet been accomplished.

In addition to satisfying the consent decree, two other current issues, not addressed by our consensus, face the LAPD.

- 1) Recruiting—the lack of applicants for employment, a question about the reduction of qualifications for hiring of new police officers and turnover based on the working conditions, housing costs and/or salaries.
- 2) Scope of Authority post 9/11—questions have frequently arisen regarding: 1) The merger of LAPD and other police forces in Los Angeles; e.g., the transit police, and more recently a merger with the LAX airport police and 2) Organizational boundaries/lines of communication and cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, e.g., the question of local law enforcement's obligation to enforce immigration laws.

Homelessness

Our position on Homelessness was adopted in 1986-87. It supports the City of Los Angeles' responsibility to provide shelter for the homeless people and to seek long-term solutions to their problems by cooperating with other levels of government and the private sector. The position includes supporting efforts of city government to insure that structures for homeless persons will not interfere with access to, or unduly impact, business enterprises.

Topics we may want to address with this position are proposals to place subsidized housing for homeless veterans, and possibly non-veterans, on the large undeveloped Veterans Administration land in West Los Angeles/Brentwood and to place temporary housing for homeless women and children in the outlying San Fernando Valley.

Housing

The position as adopted in 1967 and updated in 1980, supports measures that lead to equality of opportunity for adequate housing and indicates that subsidized housing programs should reflect the goal of adequate housing for low-income residents in every community.

State and local bond measures on this November's ballot allocate some of the funds for affordable rental housing for extremely low income residents, including the formerly homeless. We should monitor the implementation of funding. We might want to consider the interplay of this Housing position with our Planning position which includes that low-density residential neighborhoods should be preserved and our Open Space position which opposes the sale or trade of parklands.

See the article in this VOTER (p. 6) on recent government activity entitled: Homelessness & Housing.

-Jean Thomson, Co-Chair Program Planning

**-Barbara Braunstein, Consultant,
Homelessness & Housing**

TREASURER'S REPORT

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You will find the June 30, 2006, Profit & Loss report inserted in this VOTER. I am happy to report that the LWVLA ended its fiscal year with a \$31,572.82 profit.

This profit was due to additional income from fees generated by the elections we manage for the L.A. City Housing Authority as well as additional contributions and interest income.

On the expense side, we were able to keep our expenses below the budget despite rising costs of goods and services.

Although this report is just a one-page document it represents the hard work of many League members and staff that are pledged to stay on budget and ensure the financial soundness of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles for many years to come.

I also want to thank you for diligently paying your membership dues, supporting our fundraising activities and sending in contributions such as those listed on this page. I invite you to consider giving a League membership to someone as a gift, remembering loved ones with tributes and including the League in your estate planning.

-Bertha Sutton, Treasurer

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization open to all citizens, men and women, of voting age. The League's purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome

Stephen Fry Xandra Kayden
Robin Gilbert Roxana Stern
Barbara & Dan Horowitz
Rosalie Zalis

PATRON

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SUSTAINING

Jean Cohen

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ACTION FUND

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TRIBUTES

In honor of Renee & Charles Weisenberg's 50th wedding anniversary by Carryl Carter

In memory of Sally Rubin, a great League lady, role model and mentor for many of us who joined the Los Angeles League in the 1960s by Katherine Dunlap