



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES

# THE VOTER

SUMMER 2006

***July 1 is the new membership renewal date for everyone.***

***Please send in your membership renewal today.***

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...**

Participating in the year-end meetings of LWVC, LWVUS and LWVLA has made this an exhilarating spring. You can find much of what went on at web sites and in this VOTER but here is a highlight or two.

At LWVC's Leadership Council ([www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly](http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly)) in May many were energized by the workshop on How to Run a Local Election. This outlined new legislation SB 61 which details the rules for elections within homeowner and condominium associations. This information will be useful to LWVLA as it serves more of this need for election management.

In June, seven LWVLA members traveled to Minneapolis for the LWVUS "Meeting in the Middle" Convention (<http://www.lwv.org>). Reading this VOTER for details of decisions and positions adopted will assure members that registration fees were a good investment. Of particular note was a PMP increase of \$2.50 for '06 -'07 and \$3.00 for '07 - '08. This increase does not pay for the approved three-year immigration study but meets stable expenses. With declining membership, PMP revenue is down. On the bright side, LWVUS has launched a membership initiative that local leagues will benefit from by receiving tools and techniques that are pilot-tested.

(continued on next page)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)**

Finally, in June LWVLA held its Annual Meeting in the City Hall Bradley Tower. Its 360 degree view of Los Angeles was a fitting place to hear Senator Alan Lowenthal and Kathay Feng speak on the issues of the infrastructure bond measures, initiative legislation, redistricting, and public financing of campaigns. Again see this VOTER to be informed if you missed this great meeting. State of the League talk as well as reports from Program, Action and Voters Service are posted at [www.LWVLosAngeles.org](http://www.LWVLosAngeles.org).

How quickly conventions become memories with just their decisions to carry us forward. New and old Board members met June 24 to start planning for next year. The memories begin to fade but the spark and energy have been transferred. See you in September.

***-Liza White, President***

## **ANNUAL MEETING IS MORE THAN A BEAUTIFUL VIEW**

The Annual Meeting of LWVLA was held June 17 on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor of Los Angeles City Hall – a spectacular setting. The 45 members attending heard reports on our activities this past year from the Education Fund, Voters Service, Action and Program chairs. Liza White gave an inspiring State of the League report (posted on our website). The budget for 2006-2007 was approved with one amendment. The budget originally grouped all funds budgeted for committee (Membership, Action, Program etc) activities in one lump sum. The amendment establishes that \$1,000 of the \$1500 amount budgeted for committees be allocated for Action.

The LWVLA officers elected for 2006 – 2008 are Frances Talbott-White, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Cecilia Schlesinger, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP; Lynn Lowry, 4<sup>th</sup> VP and Anne Reisinger, Secretary. Bertha Sutton, Treasurer and Liza White, President, remain on the Board. Elected Directors for 2006-2008 are

Elizabeth Ralston, Wilma Willis, Sandra Chen Lau, and Frances Lapidés. Remaining directors are Marilyn Albertson, Barbara Braunstein, and Mattie Grant. Elected members of the Nominating committee are Jane Goichman and Renee Weisenberg with Cindy O'Connor and Helene Terris remaining..

Liza thanked those members of the Board who have completed their terms -- Carol Abrams, Kimberly Ernard, Thea Brodtkin, Margie Engel and Zhita Rea. She announced that Evon Gotlieb will be appointed as 1<sup>st</sup> VP and chair of the Ed Fund Board, Jean Thomson as co-chair of Program, Helaine Blatt as liaison to the Ed Fund Board and Lynn Crandall as VOTER editor.

Attendees offered the following guidance to the Board: Members who attend either the national or state convention should report the outcome at Annual Meeting; Voters Service should be reflected as an entity in next year's budget; Action should be reflected as a separate item in the budget; and the full, detailed budget should be presented to the members for their inspection. Two decisions taken at the National Convention: 1) To remove "citizen" from our mission statement and 2) To conduct a study on immigration. They will create a shift in emphasis in Los Angeles.

After a delicious buffet lunch, member Shirley Kellstrom served as moderator for speakers Senator Alan Lowenthal and Kathay Feng, of California Common Cause, who spoke on current legislative and policy issues in California. Senator Lowenthal described the basic outline of the infrastructure bond proposal being discussed in Sacramento and Kathay Feng brought us up to date on redistricting and campaign finance reform. A question and answer period followed.

***-Margie Engel, Member***

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

As part of the LWVUS Homeland Security at Home project of 2006, LWVLA and Los Angeles City College conducted a survey of local residents that asked questions about individual emergency preparedness. Over 75% of the respondents indicated that they had thought about creating a family emergency plan, but only 25% said that they had actually prepared one.

Your family may not be together in an emergency, so plan how you will contact one another. Designate a person out of state that you can contact to notify them of your status or get messages to you. Write out a contact card with important phone numbers and have each member of your family keep the cards handy in a wallet, purse or backpack. The LA Fire Department recommends that you use pay phones to make your calls since these lines will be put in service before residential lines. They also recommend that if you plan to use cell phones after a disaster that they be on the same network or service provider.

**-Lynn Lowry, Co-Chair Program Committee**

## TRANSPORTATION POSITION Take Action - Go Public

This is a reminder that we do have a mass transit system and LWVLA has a position on transportation. The next time you come into the League office think about riding the light rail right to the Vermont/Wilshire stop on the Metro Red Line. If you live in the San Fernando Valley you can access the Metro Red Line at either the North Hollywood or the Universal City stop. A day pass is **\$3** or **\$1.50** for seniors. Compare this with your cost for gasoline. The Metro system has three other light rail lines, heading east, west and south, that connect up with the Red Line. The Metro website at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) has schedules, fares and a complete route map. Give it a try, get your car off the road and bring your blood pressure down!

**-Lynn Lowry, Member**

## ACTION ALERT

Health Care committee members are urgently needed for OneCareNow Campaign. The mission of OneCareNow, a grass root campaign supported by LWVC, is to educate Californians about SB 840, California Health Insurance Reliability Act, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl.

LWVLA is forming a Health Care committee to participate in this action. We urgently need members from **Calabasas, San Fernando** and **Culver City** to help coordinate activities to educate constituents from these cities regarding SB840.

The Health Care committee will coordinate activities with members from Health Care for All-California, the umbrella organization for organizations like the League that support universal health care in California.

This campaign consists of a statewide petition drive and a 365 city campaign that begins in August of 2006 with an event in a small town; continues with an event each day thereafter in different towns or cities and ends on August 12, 2007, with a major event in Los Angeles.

The campaign also entails reaching out to communities to gain support for this bill. This could mean asking local city councils to vote for resolutions to support SB 840. The Los Angeles City Council has already approved a resolution to support this legislation.

The City Councils of Calabasas, San Fernando and Culver City have no position on SB840. This provides an opportunity for League members in these cities to petition their city councils to support SB 840. Again we do not have to do this on our own; we will be working with members from Health Care for All-California.

If interested or need more information, please contact Cecilia Schlesinger, at 213/368-1616 or [action@lwvlosangeles.org](mailto:action@lwvlosangeles.org)

**-Cecilia Schlesinger, Action Chair**

## ***PART 2 of EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE LOS ANGELES: HOMELAND SECURITY-HOW IS IT WORKING AT HOME?***

Many League members have been following the recent onslaught of articles in the local papers regarding our state of emergency preparedness, federal funding allocations for homeland security and the ongoing need for emergency equipment, training and citizen education.

In October 2005 LWVLA convened Leagues from surrounding communities and students from Los Angeles City College (LACC) which began working on an LWVUS initiative whose objective was to understand our state of emergency preparedness.

League members and students conducted over sixty interviews with elected and administrative officials from local cities and LA County, first-responder agencies, representatives of the Los Angeles World Airport, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, research institutes, schools, businesses and hospitals. The LACC students also collected over 250 surveys that asked residents to answer questions about their state of emergency preparedness and knowledge of emergency planning in Los Angeles.

Key findings from these interviews were:

- California has a long history of coordinated response to regional emergencies and served as a national model for multi-agency emergency planning and response. Much of the newly implemented National Incident Management System is based upon systems that have been in place in California for decades.

Note: On June 16, 2006 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a national report card on disaster response planning and emergency preparedness. California was rated as “sufficient” in 40% of the categories and “partially sufficient” in 60%.

- The DHS has granted more than \$100 million to the Los Angeles area in the last three years. These funds have been granted to local first responders, public safety agencies, emergency management agencies, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Los Angeles World Airports. DHS funding can be used to pay for equipment, training, infrastructure and overtime pay but it cannot be used to pay base salaries for employees. Personnel costs are paid by the local agencies from local funds.

Note: On June 1, 2006 DHS allocated \$80.6-million to the Los Angeles/Long Beach urban area which represents a 14% increase over last year.

- Emergency planning and preparedness in the workplace is variable. Many large businesses, high-density office buildings and large public venues have well developed emergency plans. Medium sized and small businesses are much less prepared.
- The distribution of citizen education materials needs a great deal of improvement. Many organizations produce emergency planning materials but, some people are not aware of it, some people can not read it and some can not access it. Special outreach efforts need to be focused upon disabled and non-English speaking residents.

*Note: On June 8, 2006 the L.A. Times published an article by Sharon Bernstein, **No Funds to Print Disaster Pamphlet-L.A. County says it does not have \$30,000 to distribute a booklet to help people with special needs survive after an earthquake.** "Hurricane Katrina showed that the frail and elderly are particularly vulnerable in natural disasters. So Los Angeles County emergency preparedness officials spent much of the last year putting together tips and a detailed checklist to help residents with special needs survive an earthquake or other catastrophe. But now, officials said they can't afford to complete printing the pamphlets and distributing them. The Office of Emergency Management has only enough money — \$2,788 to be exact — to print 5,000 copies of its report, a fraction of the amount needed to reach the tens of thousands of people with disabilities in the county, said Joyce Harris, who spearheaded the project."*

- The state of individual emergency preparedness in the Los Angeles area is lacking. A poll taken several years ago showed that less than 30% of the residents in the city of Los Angeles had any emergency plans. Our recent interviews show that in some cases citizen education material has not reached them, in some cases individual emergency preparedness has not been a priority, and in some cases residents do not have the resources to be prepared.
- Volunteer organizations need more of a presence in local emergency planning. In any significant emergency event, citizen "first responders" will need to play a major role. Volunteer organizations need to be coordinated and included in planning.

The LWVLA committee will continue working on this project and is finalizing a report for Mayor Villaraigosa's office and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Homeland Security. DVDs of the LWVLA community education forum, which was held on April 22, 2006, are available and League speakers will be going out to community organizations to bring this important information out to a broader audience. If you would like to participate in this ongoing effort, contact the Los Angeles League office (213) 368-1616.

**-Lynn Lowry, Project Coordinator**

## **STATE DEPT & GUEST VISIT**

On May 25, Ms. Tristanti and Joan Gibbons, a State Dept officer, met with LWVLA Board Member Barbara Braunstein during a State Department sponsored visit to the United States.

Ms. Tristanti is an English Instructor at the Maritime Academy of Jakarta Indonesia and an active member of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah, a Muslim civic organization. She was interested in LWV voter education materials and Get Out the Vote techniques. She explained that voter turnout is very low on the many smaller outlying islands which do not have newspapers, public libraries or Internet access. Some nonvoters believe Suharto, who was deposed as Prime Minister many years ago, is still the head of the government. We discussed publicizing issues of elementary schools and public health as a strategy to interest women in registering to vote and voting.

Since her visit occurred before the recent earthquake in Indonesia, she expressed the need for US and international foreign and security aid due to the adverse consequences of the decline in tourism after the terrorist bombing in Bali several years ago. Her visit, as well as that of the Australian Member of Parliament, and the Korean TV reporter, were opportunities for dialogue between international visitors and local League representatives.

**-Barbara Braunstein, Member**

## LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION: Delegates Inform LWVLA

LWVLA fielded a great delegation to "Meet in the Middle", LWVUS Convention 2006 in Minneapolis, June 9 -13. President Liza White was joined by members Helaine Blatt, Thea Brodtkin (technically representing Santa Monica), Margie Engel, Marilyn Johnson, Frances Talbott-White and Jean Thomson. Beverly Hills delegate Donna Gottlieb joined us for many activities and helped cover a vast array of caucuses. Following, in alphabetical order by topic, are brief reports from these intrepid delegates:

**Banquet Speaker:** After the apple tart, we were treated to Garrison Keillor's generous 'payback' of the \$15 he had won in a League essay contest back in junior high. The subject at that time was 'America the Beautiful', but on Tuesday evening Keillor rambled on about how life had changed in the years between the birth of his son in the permissive mid '60s and his daughter in the protective late '90s. He cited the loss of those dedicated League members who had inspired and rewarded him during the '50s, but I personally wish he'd acknowledged that all of these sainted women's children are "above average" -- especially those who met in the middle for Convention 2006.

***-Frances Talbott-White, Delegate***

**Board Election:** Election of new officers and directors is an important part of convention. We will never know all the people being nominated, so I trust the nominating committee to do the vetting and presenting us with appropriate folks. All of the delegates do not get to know candidates at a convention either, in spite of "Meet the Candidate" meetings and a candidate forum.

***-Jean Thomson, Delegate***

**Bylaw Amendments:** Member Leagues proposed five bylaw amendments for consideration. The first bylaw amendment to pass seems minor at first glance - it removes two words ("of citizens") from the League's statement of purpose - but is far-reaching as it expands the League's target audience to all U.S. residents. The second amendment to pass was a bit of housekeeping regarding types of membership.

***-Margie Engel, Delegate***

**Civil Liberties Caucus:** The first panelist suggested that the best thing we can do is change the lock by one party on our government! We have a long history of discrimination against various groups of people. Xandra Kayden indicated that the LWV was the first organization to oppose Joe McCarthy. She also suggested that the public doesn't always know what their civil liberties are, so don't realize they are being taken away. Pass-through grants were announced for the terrorism deterrence phase of "Local Voices."

***-Jean Thomson, Delegate***

**Courts/Judicial Issues Panel:** Judicial power comes from public trust, and courts have to be free from outside influences, yet very few states have merit selection of judges. Judges should be nonpartisan yet many run and are selected by parties. Problems now are the need to raise campaign money and receive large, out-of-state contributions. Leagues should ask about: criminal sentencing philosophy, views on the role of the court; experience, qualifications, family life. Judicial elections need NGO monitoring, ads checked, and donations (especially last-minute) tracked. Suggestion was that jury members should be surveyed regarding judicial fairness.

***-Jean Thomson, Delegate***

LWVUS Board member Sarah Diefendorf sent this "follow-on good news for those who enjoyed the judicial forum at Convention." "The League has been nominated for The Hod Greeley award - named in honor of Burnham "Hod" Greeley, a dedicated lawyer and leader within the American Bar Association - to recognize individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting increased public awareness of the need for a fair and impartial judiciary." The first annual presentation of the award will be at the 2006 American Bar Association in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 4. The nomination has been made by Justice at Stake Campaign with letters of support that came from the Constitution Project and the Brennan Center.

***-Zaida Arguedas, LWVUS Depty Exec.Dir.***

**Death Penalty:** Early this year the LWV of Evanston and the Illinois State League offered extensive information to other leagues on their study and subsequent position supporting abolition of the death penalty. Their convincing arguments considered its inherent flaws, the high costs, and overall injustices of the death penalty. Vengeance is the only justification remaining. Resources and additional materials are on [http://www.lwvil.org/death\\_penalty/](http://www.lwvil.org/death_penalty/).

A bit of history -- a proposal for concurrence was first presented at the 2004 Convention where it received a majority, but not the required two-thirds vote. Illinois again this year presented a motion to adopt the LWVIL Death Penalty position by concurrence. It reads simply, "The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty." The motion carried. This position opposes the death penalty on state and federal levels, but of course states can still choose to act on this position or not. Thirteen state leagues already have positions supporting abolition and three state leagues are calling for reform or a moratorium.

***–Marilyn Johnson, Delegate***

**DREs / Paper Trail Issues (SARA):** The League has made a clear statement of support for a voter verifiable paper audit trail. After passing the eloquent and simple SARA resolution (that balloting should be **Safe, Accurate, Recountable and Accessible**) at the 2004 LWVUS Convention, many state and local leagues were uncertain how to interpret and act on SARA. The new resolution, SARA II, approved by 2006 Convention delegates includes specific language requiring a paper ballot on all electronic voting equipment, defining the paper ballot as the ballot of record, and providing state and local leagues with specific election procedures.

***–Margie Engel, Delegate***

**Electoral / Voting Issues:** For me, the most interesting session was a caucus on "The National Popular Vote" movement, an ingenious way to have the President elected by popular vote without a Constitutional Amendment to abolish the Electoral College. This is more than just an 'idea' - the proposal has already passed the California Assembly. Bills have been introduced in six state legislatures and will

certainly be in all fifty by the end of the year. What is still under discussion is whether the LWVUS position on abolishing the Electoral College will allow state leagues to support this movement. (<http://www.nationalpopularvote.com>) ***–Thea Brodtkin, Delegate***

**First-timer's Impressions:** What nerve I have! I haven't even been an active member of the LWV that long and here I was off to a national convention. If truth be known, I've always wanted to see Minneapolis.

There were over 800 women, a smattering of men and an equal smattering of young women. Let me tell you these 'older' women are dynamos. We were busy from 7:30 am until 11:00 pm. Our LWV is awesome. There were plenary sessions (big, formal meetings with every parliamentary rule enforced) and caucuses (informal lecture, small discussions, and workshops on subjects the league is interested in). There was new vocabulary "concurrence," "recommended items," "non-recommended items."

I only saw Minneapolis from a hotel window but I have no regrets; I learned so much and am even more convinced how important my support of the LWV is. From our grassroots group in Los Angeles, to our County League, to the State League, to LWVUS, I am so proud to be a part of this mighty organization.

***–Helaine Blatt, Delegate***

**Fundraising:** As much as we all love fulfilling the mission statement of the LWV, educating ourselves, as well as the voters, it takes money to do this. Costs for operating the League are always rising. Our basic dues are not enough to cover operating the Los Angeles office as well as our required contribution to the county, state and national.

In the workshop I attended on fundraising the most important message I came away with is that raising money is not the responsibility of one person or one committee but of the entire, active and dedicated membership. Fundraising is an absolute necessity if we are to continue enjoying the personal benefits of League membership and our work on behalf of the community. ***–Helaine Blatt, Delegate***

## **LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION: Delegates Inform LWVLA (cont.)**

**Health Care:** At the June 11 workshop on health care, the feeling of participants was that the League be a leader in this important issue. Physicians for Single-Payer Health Care as well as hospitals and nurses are in favor of a single payer plan in which the government pays. However, the health reform non-recommended item, which had seven League recommendations, failed because many states are doing their own studies (California has Sheila Kuehl's SB 840 under consideration). While this is a very important issue that affects everyone, there are other issues of even greater priority for LWVUS to consider.

**–Donna Gottlieb, Delegate**

**Immigration:** Two caucuses addressed background information to help delegates decide about approving a three-year study of immigration. The caucus I went to had a five member panel which addressed immigration issues relating to:

- need for economic growth as population ages;
- desperate need for reasonable immigration policy;
- refugee policy that is formulated and implemented on a crisis basis rather than on principle and need;
- debate on immigration based on invective rather than thoughtful discourse;
- asking reasonable questions about such issues as: "what is a sustainable level of immigration?";
- our people's ambivalence about immigration which results in ambivalent laws passed by ambivalent representatives;
- local law enforcement's work with immigrant populations which will be ineffective if they are forced to become deputized immigration enforcers and
- our piecemeal immigration policies which need to be long-term and fact-based.

I came away from this caucus and discussion realizing that a study was important to do, that the League was the entity to create discussion outside of politics and that there is a viable framework for a study even on a topic of such magnitude.

**–Liza White, Delegate**

**Membership:** Membership in LWVUS has declined 16.7% in the last ten years. Between 2005 and 2006 we lost 3,500 members. A targeted response is seen as very necessary to stop this member drain. The membership caucus was a presentation by LWVUS and Spitfire Strategies, the consultants hired to research LWV membership issues and develop a comprehensive pilot project to be offered to five LWVs through a competitive proposal process. A project budget of \$165,000 has been adopted. The demographic for new member recruitment is the retiring or retired woman, 50 to 65 years old. This is a growing group (it will increase by 10 million in the next 10 years) with time, energy and values that resonate with League's needs. This group is also diverse in culture, language, ethnicity and family status. The Spitfire program will test strategies and tactics that are most efficient at drawing new members. Although pilot LWVs will receive (and provide) the most interaction with Spitfire, all Leagues will be given the methods (tools) that are working.

**–Liza White, Delegate**

**Non-recommended Items / Resolutions:** How DO you collect, sort, discuss and reach agreement on all the ideas and concerns raised by a diverse and engaged membership? Our convention process provides for considering resolutions on issues that were not selected during program planning. At least seven non-recommended items were presented for consideration. The three calling for greater emphasis on specific issues (health care, energy / climate change and citizen's right to know) were defeated, along with a call for an update on redistricting. Delegates approved a resolution on adding the restoration of our system of checks and balances to the League's Democracy Agenda. Also approved were resolutions committing the League to supporting Internet neutrality and a voter verifiable paper audit-trail.

**–Margie Engel, Delegate**

**Redistricting:** This workshop featured tales of success and woe from several states. Our State President, Jackie Jacobberger, gave testimony that although Prop 77 was voted down in November's special election, a better proposal has a real possibility of making the ballot in the

near future with League's help. Redistricting is important if we want more competitive districts, but the message was clear that we must look at other ways of reforming our elections if we expect to open the political system to newcomers, minorities and women. These changes might include consideration of Instant Runoff Elections and alternative voting systems, Super Districts, public funding of campaigns, and other reforms. So much to think about!

**-Thea Brodtkin, Delegate**

**'Running & Winning':** A program to encourage young girls to participate in civics and government. A one-day workshop aimed at juniors and seniors in high school to show them they can be part of the solution. LWV partners with AAUW, ethnic organizations, etc. to recruit facilitators and to publicize. LWV invites women politicians/government officials or those who have worked behind the scenes to work with the girls. Tables set up with one facilitator, one politician, and eight girls. They are assigned either to research and presenting a ballot measure, or to run a political campaign, etc. Then the girls work on the research, write speeches, make posters or campaign materials, determine strategy of campaign and make their pitch. Many organizations are willing to contribute to event. **-Jean Thomson, Delegate**

**Telecommunications:** AT&T and Verizon are proposing a national (or state) Internet/cable franchise agreement bypassing local agreements made with cities. There are concerns that they will not have to provide the PEG (public, educational, governmental) access now required of the cable companies. There are also concerns about the possibility that they will not be required to cover a complete city and that they would be able to charge different rates for the broadband usage - those who pay more would get faster delivery. This has passed the State Assembly (now stalled in State Senate, with committee hearings postponed as of 6/14). It has passed the House of Representatives and is now in U.S. Senate. **-Jean Thomson, Delegate**

**Wares Market:** is essentially a small trade show where state and local Leagues, as well as a few outside vendors, display and sell

everything from the 'Run for President' board game to tee-shirts and Hmong handcrafts. California had two tables, one of which featured demos of Smart Voter and League Easy Web while the other sold logo jewelry and publications. **-Frances Talbott-White, Delegate**

**Youth Caucus:** Led by LWVUS, youngest director, Odetta Macleish-White, this caucus featured a guitarist, a bar, and a start time of 9:30 pm. Forty-eight delegates, under 35 years old, from all over the country showed up. Questions were asked to get the conversational ball rolling with the goal to network and set up on-going communication to foster MORE youth League membership. How did these young women hear about League? Not from their mothers but through voter service, study and action projects, the Internet and an interest in policy issues - where work or education intersected with a League project.

Many had moved to a new place and the League filled a need to get connected to the community in a meaningful way. What do they like about the League? Being treated with respect for capabilities immediately; ways to get involved; straightforward, honest people; felt like a safe place; great follow-up from League members who don't push but keep inviting; impressive local accomplishments on issues that they either worked on or read about; being valued; the incredible stories; how connected the League is with itself and the community.

What are they challenged by about the League? Being put into leadership roles sooner than they think they are ready; Leaguers who are pessimistic. Do these young people feel put out by the new membership initiative that focuses on 50 to 65 year olds? One woman said, "it's natural they'd want to collect the low hanging fruit" (to much laughter) but another one reminded that the youth initiative is "time sensitive" with the idea that if LWV DOESN'T recruit more young people soon, its experienced, seasoned members may not be around to do the crucial mentoring. They had set up an e-list to stay in touch. I have high hopes for LWV's future as a result of attending this caucus. **-Liza White, Delegate**

(continued on next page)

## LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION: Delegates Inform LWVLA (cont.)

Finally, a potpourri of gut reactions:

### What we liked best -

- budget/treasury caucus with clear explanation leading to good plenary discussion and informed voting (Liza)
- buzz of hundreds of voices sharing, arguing, cajoling -- the sense of being immersed in this beehive of action (Margie)
- participating with six congenial, enthusiastic delegates from LWVLA (Liza)
- President Kay Maxwell's suggestion that we need to improve the Program Planning process (Frances)
- quality of Convention planning and leadership during plenary (Liza)
- Roberts Rules -- I loved the possibility of stopping debate when it was droning on! (Jean)
- seeing League friends from around the country (Frances)
- sessions on how to reform our political system (Thea)
- youth delegates caucus (Liza )

**-Frances Talbott-White, Delegate  
LWVUS Convention**

## MEMBER GOLD – IRENE NEUMANN Goodbye to a 50-year Member

In the 1960s I moved to Los Angeles, switched my League of Women Voters membership to the LA League, and met Irene Neumann, who had also recently moved to LA, and also become part of the LA League family.

Irene was the quintessential 1960s member of League. She loved government and she cared deeply about her community. She was well organized and well spoken. She enjoyed the intellectual challenge of a study at every level of government.

She may have been the first to hold the position of Program Coordinator, which, next to President, was *the* full time job. There must have been at least a dozen units, over 1500 members and new, demanding studies every year. Preparing the materials during those years was a challenge, without copying machines, to say nothing of a computer!

In addition to satisfying her intellectual needs, the League was perfect for another of her outstanding qualities---forming relationships. We became good personal friends. And as those who knew her will attest, Irene was a woman of impeccable taste. Her home was filled with beautiful paintings and elegant objects d'art, exquisitely displayed. I took advantage of that good taste by asking her to accompany me in shopping for the perfect dress for my oldest son's bar mitzvah!

Irene was a true survivor. In recent years she was afflicted with too many cruel diseases. She kept her spirits up and participated in as much as her illness would allow. Her many friends remained true. All of us will miss her. She died in May of this year.

**-Joy Picus, Member**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**New Members**

Roz Barouch  
Lindsay Kuhn  
Lilyanne Ohanesian  
Zena Reubel

**Friend**

Eugene Kapaloski  
Susan Rice

**Patron**

Marcia Edelman Estella Mysels  
Millie Ratner Margaret Shuler  
Peg Yorkin

**Sustaining Member**

Ronda Breitbard  
Siegrun Fox Freyss

**Action Fund**

Sally McKay Elinor & Rubin Turner

**TRIBUTES**

In memory of Irene Neumann by  
Elizabeth Armstrong  
Shirley Friedman-Chase  
Miriam & John Frankel  
Joy & Gerry Picus  
Florence Verger  
Renee & Charles Weisenberg

**Lois Feldheim Memorial Fund**

Jo Anne Aplet  
Donald Lipman  
Lois Saffian

**LWVLA Donation**

Elizabeth Baker  
Claire O'Connell

*We mourn the passing of our longtime member  
Ray Shapero*

**EDUCATION FUND**

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Francine Oschin  
Liza White

**TRIBUTES**

In honor of Carryl Carter's birthday by  
Marian Harvey

In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of  
Renee & Charles Weisenberg by  
Sheila & Anton Calleia  
Geri & Murray Morguelan

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