



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Southwest Riverside County

Issue 3, Volume 21

April 2006

President's Corner

This is the inaugural email edition of the *VOTER!* Your comments will be welcomed on format and design. Soon you will also be able to see this newsletter on our website, www.swrc.ca.lwvnet.org.

On Friday, March 24th, lifetime member Ruth Licata was recognized for her 50 years of community and civic participation with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars. Friends, League members, and dignitaries spoke of Ruth's strong sense of equality and justice, providing snippets of her work to highlight her many contributions. The ceremony and reception were well-timed, coming just at the tail-end of Sunshine Week—a week when groups across America are focusing on open and participatory government.

LWVC President Jackie Jacobberger sent a letter of congratulations and a vase of yellow roses was presented on behalf of our local League. Ruth's shining star is #268 on the Palm Springs walk, and is located at 222 S. Palm Canyon Drive, in front of La Casuelas Terraza Restaurant.

Ruth related how at age 11, she attended a rally for votes for women with her mother. Now, at 96 years old, Ruth recalled the event and credited that day as the beginning of her own activism.

We don't know if Ruth ever met Carrie Chapman Catt, but she well might have. Mrs. Catt is generally credited as the founder of the League. In April 1919, she wrote, "The politicians used to ask why we wanted to vote. They seemed to think we want to do something particular with it, something we were not telling about. They did not understand that women wanted to help improve the general welfare of the people". The 'general welfare of the people' has always been Ruth's driving interest, and this she has done.

Charolette Fox

CALENDAR

Desert Unit

Saturday, April 1
10:00am

Palm Desert Public Library
73300 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Contact: Betty Mann, (760) 200-3877
blm65054@worldnet.att.net

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 12
1:30pm

Ramona Community Room
Miller-Jones Funeral Home
1501 West Florida (between Lyons & Palm)
Hemet, CA 92543

PBS Series on Water

The first segment—"Climate Change"—airs on KCET a PBS affiliate in Southern California, at 6:00pm, Monday, April 17 (check with other PBS stations for local broadcasts)

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Thursday, April 27

9:00am - 1:00pm

Los Angeles City Hall Council Chamber
200 North Spring Street, Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012

For information, call (213) 485-6334

ENACT Meeting

Saturday, May 13
10:00am

Location pending. For information, contact:

Diane Mitchell, dkmitchell@verizon.net or
Charolette Fox, lottiefox@verizon.net

The only known cure for ignorance, is education.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

“Are We Safer in the Dark?” was a panel discussion hosted by LWVUS and several other national organizations during Sunshine Week (March 12-18). The effort was to shed light on the growing lack of government transparency. Many Leagues across the country also held Sunshine Week events.

Looking for Sunshine: Protecting Your Right to Know, is a resource guide to assist organizations interested in openness in government. It can be downloaded from the national website, www.lwv.org. The guide provides an overview of the most significant federal and state laws—those that protect and those that restrict public access to government information—and suggests ways to become more active in this area. Copies of this resource guide (Pub. #2077) are \$4.50 and are available through pubsales@lwv.org.

“Courts are Different” - An Article by Professor Luke Bierman, Director of the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University, supports the League’s *Safeguarding the U.S. Democracy* program. This project is the League’s nationwide educational effort to promote an independent judiciary. Bierman’s article explains why separate institutions, with unique functions and responsibilities, lie at the core of American Governance.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO WATCH

FEC Internet Regulation

The League applauds the internet regulation adopted by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) on March 27, which strikes a balance between protecting free speech and campaign finance laws. However, League opposes H.R. 1606 (Hensarling) which would gut campaign finance laws and the soft money ban.

The League opposes oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

The League expressed concerns to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) about implementation of the National Voter Registration Act in the states.

A coalition of groups sent a letter urging support for lobby reform legislation that effectively addresses the issues of enforcement, travel, disclosure, the revolving door and gifts. A statement entitled “Six Benchmarks for Lobbying Reform” is available online at

http://www.lwv.org/AM/PrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=Democracy_Agenda&Content

American Democracy at Risk: Agenda for Renewal and Repair

a speech by

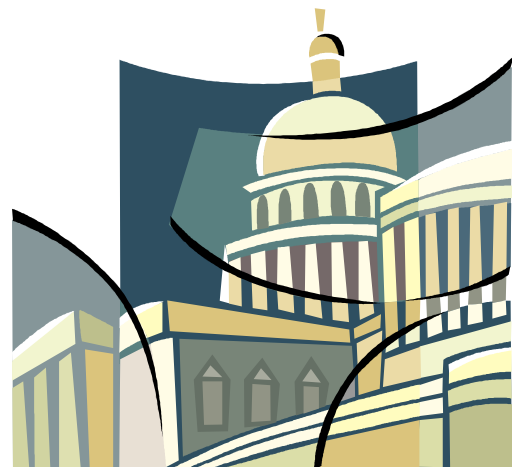
LWVUS President Kay J. Maxwell
Santa Fe, New Mexico
January 31, 2006

“Years of band-aid solutions and neglect have allowed many of our government systems to grow weak. Our Democracy Agenda offers viable solutions to help overcome those weaknesses, and educate communities and citizens nationwide, on how to improve things. This effort is about protecting our electoral processes through election reform efforts and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act; advancing our representative government through nonpartisan redistricting; preserving our constitutional rights by safeguarding civil liberties; and protecting against government corruption through campaign finance and lobbying reform.”

“Democracy is at risk when long lines and faulty voting processes keep Americans from voting and having their votes counted. Democracy is at risk when partisan gerrymandering ensures that elections are over before the people vote. Democracy is at risk when government actions threaten basic civil liberties. And, democracy is at risk when special interest money plays a dominant role. We believe we must renew and repair our democracy so that it truly works for all citizens.”

The full address can be viewed or downloaded in its entirety by going to www.lwv.org, click on News & Events, click on e-League Newsletter for February 2006.

You can also access the state and national websites from our local website, www.swrc.ca.lwvnet.org.

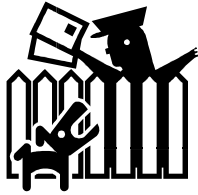


KNOWING



A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.

Know more than you say, have more than you show.
- a Native American saying



To insure that your newsletter and other correspondence reaches you, please remember to report changes to us.

Contact Charolette Fox (951) 302-0180.

*Guests are always
welcome !!*

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR
WILL OR TRUST

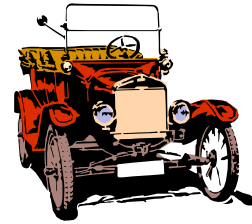
STAYIN' IN TUNE

Keep your mind alive! Learn about issues,
meetings and events by visiting our website

www.swrc.ca.lwvnet.org



Donate your old car to League!



Thinking of turning in ol' Betsy for a shiny
new hybrid?

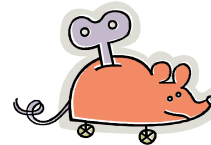
Donate your used car, boat, RV or
motorcycle by calling 1-800-320-0476.
You'll get a deduction on your taxes, avoid
a hassle at the DMV and provide a new
source of funding for League.

Be sure to mention that the donation is for
the League of Women Voters.



VOTERS SERVICE OUTREACH

Three Leagues hosted a Voters Service
Outreach Workshop on March 25. Members
learned new ways to partner with other
organizations and the community to increase
voter turnout.



The engine won't go without volunteers like
you. Please contact Sue Leuschen to learn
what you can do to help with elections in
2006. shoelace@lasercom.net

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Southwest Riverside County

32800 Hupa Drive
Temecula, CA 92592

Address Correction Requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

If you enjoyed this issue, why not
share it with a friend? Please pass
it on and help us build our readership
Thank you.

VOTER

Published nine times a year by the League of
Women Voters of Southwest Riverside County

President: Charolette Fox 951-302-0180
Secretary: Daisy McCleary 951-845-7191
Treasurer: Diane Mitchell 951-927-1775
Voters Service: Sue Leuschen 951-765-5448
Legislative Action: Charolette Fox 951-302-0180
Desert Unit Coord: Betty Mann 760-200-3877

Email: lwv.swriverside@verizon.net

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose political parties or candidates. We do, however, advocate for or against issues based on positions arrived at by member consensus. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.

It's easy to join the League of Women Voters!

ANNUAL DUES (include membership in local,
California, and National Leagues):

Individual - \$50.00
Household - \$25.00
Student - \$36.00

Make checks payable to:
LWV Southwest Riverside County
Mail to: Diane Mitchell
43931 Mandarin Drive
Hemet, CA 92544

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check one: _____ new _____ renewal

Contribution: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK: _____

*Dues and contributions to the League are not deductible for
Federal Income Tax Purposes.*

