

## A Word from LALCV's President . . .



Without the support of a dynamic board, I would have very little to say in this column. But thanks to the outstanding contributions of the LALCV Board members over the years (many who still serve, and others who have moved on to other great work), I can say that the LA League of Conservation Voters is stronger and more vibrant than ever in its history. With this all-volunteer cadre of activists, advocates and otherwise really smart people, we were able to interview dozens and endorse nine candidates in five cities in the current municipal election cycle. We have begun to make this newsletter a trimester event, we have selected and honored outstanding environmental champions each year, and we are in the planning process to launch an LALCV Web site to make it easier for you to find out what we're up to. *Wow!*

Little of our great work could be done, however, without your incredibly generous support. Do you know that you are responsible for us growing from a \$3,000-a-year group to an almost \$30,000-a-year political action committee with clout and visibility in just six years? It's true. What's more, your feedback about who we should honor as environmental champions, your inquiries as to who we have endorsed, and your attendance at our Smith-Weiss Environmental Champion Awards Celebration rank you as highly active, participatory and concerned citizens. So, thank you. We need you to keep up this effort, and we need more people like you.

With term limits in many cities, our work in LA County is always only just beginning, but with participatory voters like you, LA can be a cleaner, healthier and more vibrant county in which to live. Our successes in LA and San Fernando show that environmental themes mean as much in the "big city" as they do in a big town. Our endorsements in Calabasas, Burbank, Glendale, Santa Monica and Long Beach exemplify our effort to reach out farther into the county and impact environmental politics as profoundly as possible. This is happening because of our Board, and again, because of contributions and support from you.

In this issue we are celebrating some incredible victories and some fantastic runoff opportunities. We're also advertising the *Hottest Ticket in Town*, our annual awards event and fundraiser on April 27th. Now would be a great time to make a contribution. Support our candidates and support us, and ask your friends and family to do the same. And maybe, in the next major local election cycle, we'll be able to thank you for helping us reach *twice* as many cities and *twice* as many environmental candidates. I hope to see you on the 27th. – Andi Liebenbaum, President, LALCV



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## Win or Place -- LALCV Candidates Always a Good Show

### A Green Agenda for a Better 14th



Antonio Villaraigosa

Welcome to City Hall, Antonio!

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is pleased to be among Antonio Villaraigosa's greatest supporters as he begins his tenure as the new LA City Council Member representing the City's 14th District.

The former Assembly Member wants to continue his long-time efforts to renew communities and neighborhoods with green spaces, parks, trees and other natural features that will improve the quality of life for the residents. He also plans to tackle the increased traffic congestion and air quality degradation of the 14th district, and wants to participate in LALCV-endorsed colleague Ed Reyes' *ad hoc* committee on the LA River, as well as join the MTA Board. Antonio is committed to putting the "plan" back into "land use planning," and believes that his reputation for developing and working in productive teams will garner support for his ideas from his friends and colleagues on the Council.

### San Fernando Wins with Martinez and Veres



Nury Martinez

Lucky for San Fernando! Nury Martinez and Steve Veres are two of the City's newest and brightest stars sitting on the City Council. The two candidates' commitment to community quality of life, reduction of traffic ills and related environmental problems, and urban beautification through tree plantings won them their LALCV endorsements.

Martinez and Veres have different styles, but both bring vision and enthusiasm for improving San Fernando. Martinez has been involved in local and regional politics for some time, learning the best ways to bring resources to the people, and bring the people into the process. Veres demonstrates a civic pride for San Fernando that has fueled his desire to see the City become environmentally friendly for the families who live there.

Although recognizing that elections can often pit candidates against one another, LALCV President Andi Liebenbaum said she was pleased that Martinez and Veres were friends and colleagues going into the election. "They complement one another and represent a pro-environment windfall for San Fernando."



Steve Veres



### Get Out and Vote

### Gus Gomez Looks to Keep Glendale Green for Four More Years

Gus Gomez obviously has impressed a lot of people since LALCV helped elect him to the Glendale City Council in 1999. Gomez was selected to serve as Mayor of Glendale in 2001-2002, and is the current chair of the city's Housing Authority. Gomez is running for reelection in the city's general municipal election on April 1, and he's thrilled to once again have the support of LALCV.

To learn how you can support Gus Gomez' campaign, call the campaign office at (818) 637-8373.

### League's Own Todd Campbell Stuns the Competition



Todd Campbell

He may be a political newcomer, but he's no novice. Former LALCV board member Todd Campbell placed third in a field of 10 running for two open seats on the Burbank City Council in the City's Feb. 26 primary.

Campbell, who works as Policy Director for the Coalition for Clean Air, is ready to put his advocacy experience and political know-

how to work in addressing traffic and air quality challenges facing Burbank.

A third-generation Burbank resident, Campbell has welcomed LALCV Board members who have joined him in walking and talking to the city's residents. Board members have walked precincts, participated in phone banks and helped Todd raise funds for his race.

Todd's run-off will take place April 8. To get involved with the campaign, call (818) 842-5808 or e-mail [toddcpbl@hotmail.com](mailto:toddcpbl@hotmail.com).



## More LALCV Endorsements ... More Candidate Victories

### Tony Cardenas Lays Out Valley Agenda

Tony Cardenas, the new LA City Council Member for the 6th District, is bringing home his belief that government is "a tool to assist people on the local level."

Cardenas has ideas and an agenda already in formation as he prepares to take office in July. Several of these priorities led to his LALCV endorsement. He is a champion of safer neighborhoods, and wants to use park and recreation opportunities for youth as a means to achieve that goal. He also advocates closing the Bradley Landfill as soon as possible, and he wants Los Angeles to start investing in the future of solid waste disposal by encouraging the City Council and the City's residents to identify funds to come up with and aggressively promote alternatives.

Cardenas also hopes to address environmental issues such as heavy diesel truck traffic through the core of the 6th District and storm water management to provide relief from heavy flooding that occurs throughout his neighborhoods. He opposes the City's litigiousness with regard to clean water regulations, and applauds the effort to find solutions to revitalize the Los Angeles River.

### Barry Groveman Goes to Bat for Calabasas

Barry Groveman understands both sides of legal environmental equations. As an attorney who has represented both businesses and the public, he knows how environmental laws, regulation and enforcement work, and he wants to see more of all three work to the benefit of Calabasas. As a newly elected Calabasas City Council Member, Groveman can put his expertise to work to help Calabasas in its fight against the Ahmanson Ranch development, improve traffic congestion and its pollution impacts, and protect the open space character and beauty of the city.

The City of Calabasas is 12 years old, and Barry says that the learning curve for City leaders is over. He says he will bring professionalism, energy and leadership to the Council "so the important decisions that protect the City and its environment can be advanced."



Barry Groveman

### LaBonge and Greuel Show Their Green Stripes

With less than a full term of office between them, the Los Angeles City Council's newest incumbents moved quickly to establish their leadership on a variety of environmental issues. Voters overwhelmingly reelected both Tom LaBonge and Wendy Greuel to full terms, with the wholehearted support of LALCV.

## And There's More to Come

### Ludlow's Goals for CD10 Shared by LALCV



Martin Ludlow

Martin Ludlow, the LALCV's pick for council member in the City's 10th District, is a young man with a long tradition of political and social activism. An activist since he was a child, Martin became the Political Director of the LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, then Deputy Director of the LA Conservation Corps. Recently, he's been the Southern California Chief of Staff to two of the three most recent Assembly Speakers, Antonio Villaraigosa and Herb Wesson. He is also a former LALCV board member.

Martin's goals of converting/eliminating the high concentration of liquor stores and body shops in the 10th Council District, expanding green space by coordinating with the 15 new LAUSD campuses planned for the 10th CD and beginning the long process of reducing traffic congestion and sprawl (among others) make him a hands-down environmental choice for this District and the City of Los Angeles overall.

Martin will face CD10 staffer Deron Williams in the May runoff, and he knows the race will be a tough one. Let's get out and help him. Contact his campaign at (323) 935-1114.

### Korenstein Seeks to Apply School Leadership to City Programs



Julie Korenstein

Julie Korenstein has made the runoff in the hotly contested L.A. City Council race in the 12th District.

Julie has been an environmental leader during her terms on the LAUSD Board and has pledged to continue that leadership when elected to the City Council. Thanks to Julie's leadership, the school district diverts more than 50 percent of its waste materials from landfills, has a policy of purchasing materials with recycled content, and a program to divert its construction/demolition waste. Julie has also led the way in reducing the district's use of pesticides and herbicides and authored the motion to require all schools to implement an indoor air quality program. She's a proponent of the city's Green Power program and mandating alternative fuels for public fleet vehicles. She supports full implementation of the L.A. River restoration and a bikeway and greenway to the Valley.

LALCV is proud to have endorsed Julie Korenstein and urges you to contribute to her campaign in any way you can. You can contact her campaign at (818) 728-4200.

## The Hottest Ticket in Town...

is what you have if you come to the LALCV Smith-Weiss Environmental Champions Awards celebration on April 27th. The event will be held once again at the home of Mary Nichols, California Resource Secretary, in Hancock Park.

State Senator Martha Escutia, one of our 2002 Environmental Champions, will be this year's Master of Ceremonies. This year's honorees represent an impressive spectrum of styles, successes and environmental achievement.

And the winners are ...

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas served as chair of the LA City Council's Environmental Quality Committee and led the City's groundbreaking adoption of a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city operations. His award will be presented by LALCV President Andi Liebenbaum.

Whether it's trash TMDLs or sewage, Councilmember Jack Weiss, a former Assistant US Attorney, understands the risks, the burdens and the toll that litigation takes on all sides. In several recent and important Council sessions, Jack has voted, sometimes alone, against the City continuing to fight lawsuits, advocating instead that the money and effort be invested in cleaning up Los Angeles. Steve Fleischli, Executive Director of Santa Monica BayKeeper, will present the award to Jack.

Ed Begley, Jr. is one of our country's most visible and most passionate environmental advocates. He has earned the respect and appreciation of the environmental movement by taking the time to study as well as advocate for environmental issues. He serves as a board member for the Coalition for Clean Air, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Environmental Media Association, the Walden Woods Project, Friends of the Earth, and the Environmental Research Foundation. Ed drives an electric car and lives in a solar powered home.

Under the leadership of former Board President David Nahai and current Board President Fran Diamond, the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board has at last taken groundbreaking action in leading the way toward eliminating the blight of urban run-off in Los Angeles. Their strong and committed leadership in debunking the often-outrageous campaign against the Board's strong enforcement actions is a model of civic leadership in protecting the environment. Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry will present the award.

Dorothy Green's name is virtually synonymous with water issues in Southern California and has been for almost 30 years. Among her many achievements is the creation of Heal the Bay. She was also a founder and past president of LALCV. She served as a commissioner on the LADWP for 3 years and as a board member and past president of the L.A. and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council. Adi Lieberman, current president of Heal the Bay, will present Dorothy's award.

The Smith-Weiss Environmental Champion Award was established in 1998 to honor two long-time LALCV board members who passed away that year. Gregory Smith was a tireless community activist in the San Pedro area, and Ilyene Weiss was an environmental leader on a host of wetlands and water quality projects. Both were champions for the environment.

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