



League of Women Voters North Coast San Diego County VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Volume XXXVIII No. 6 Midsummer 2010
Editor: Veronica Seay

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P.O. Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013 www.lwvncsd.org

Calendar August 2010

- 8/2/10 Health Care Issues Group Mtg.
9:30 AM at the home of Kathie Rosvall
- 8/3/10 Founders Lunch Committee Mtg.
10 AM Leucadia Wastewater District Office (LWD)
- 8/12/10 Board Meeting, US Bank, El
9:15 AM Camino Real, Encinitas
- 8/16/10 Book Group at the home of
1:15 PM Jan Gonzales
- 8/20/10 Founders Lunch Committee Mtg.
1 PM at LWD
- 8/24/10 Grant Writing Committee at LWD
10 AM
- 8/24/10 County League Meeting
5-7 PM San Diego See page 3

NEW Issues Groups

This is a great time to start a new issues group. If you have a suggestion for a topic that you feel would be of general interest, please Contact Diane Mochizuki. Expertise in the topic is not necessary. The groups often learn and become experts together.

NEW Education Group

League members are encouraged to join a newly established interest group focused on innovations in educational curriculum and school financing. Information gathered and discussion of these topics will be a precursor to the National LWV's recently adopted study for 2011-2012. The Education group will meet regularly in order to become more knowledgeable about local school issues. For more details please contact Carol Grimes-Gartland at 760-729-0278 or clgspced@sbcglobal.net.

Founders Day Luncheon



guest speaker

Dr. Karen S. Haynes

President, CSU San Marcos

**Women as Leaders –
Past, Present and Future**

Bring your friends and family!

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 11AM – 2PM

Hilton Garden Inn, Carlsbad

Tickets \$35 per person,
tables of 8 available for \$280

Secure your reservation now! This event will sell out

Please return this portion with your check to:

Martha Cox, Treasurer

LWVNCSDC

PO Box 131272, Carlsbad, CA 92013

Att: Founders Day Luncheon

Please reserve ____ place(s) for LWV Founders Day event @\$35.00 per person

Please reserve ____ table(s) for LWV Founders Day event @\$280.00 per table

Check here if you require a vegetarian meal

Please make your reservation and payment by September 24, 2010.

Questions? Call or email Leita McCormick
760-448-5128 or klmpc@aol.com

Enclosed is my check made out to **LWVNCSDC** for \$ _____

Name _____

Guests _____

The View From There: LWVUS Convention by Peggy Dornish

The biennial LWVUS Convention took place on June 11-15 in Atlanta, GA. Our delegates Peggy Dornish, Roni Seay, and Nancy Telford attended a variety of workshops and caucuses in addition to the plenary sessions during which we conducted our business. The schedule was demanding, but we returned home intellectually energized and very proud to be League members locally and nationally.

Delegates were welcomed to the conference with a stirring speech by iconic civil rights leader John Lewis, who represents the Atlanta district in Congress. Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius also addressed the delegates and praised the League's efforts to move health care reform forward. Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi sent laudatory 90th Anniversary greetings via video. At one extraordinary and memorable plenary event, eight former National League Presidents--all those still living--talked about their presidencies spanning the momentous era from the 1960's to the present. Their reflections were fascinating as well as wise and gave delegates a rich sense of our recent history.

Adoption of Program, Positions, & Resolutions

We adopted two studies: the federal role in public education, which will focus on education policy-making; and privatization—the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and assets to the private sector.

By concurrence on the convention floor: an updated Arms Control Position; delegates also approved the addition of the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve our long-time goal of the direct popular vote for election of the President until the Electoral College is abolished (local Leaguers will remember our own inconclusive debates on this matter); the addition

to our Equality of Opportunity Position to support legislation to equalize the legal rights and benefits available to same-gender couples with those of heterosexual couples, including the right to marry under civil law.

Resolutions: to support rescinding the travel restrictions for American citizens going to Cuba; to call upon the LWVUS Board to support and lobby for significant strengthening of regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources; to add the principle of transparency to the SARA Resolution on voting adopted in 2005; hence, security, accuracy, recountability, accessibility, and transparency; to call upon the LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the Gulf of Mexico BP oil spill to be held accountable in all respects, including the cleanup; and to urge the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to speed efforts to assist the coastal states affected.

Bylaws: our many and vigorously active 50-Year Members will be pleased to hear that the word “honorary” has been removed from their designation--they are Life Members, period; and finally, henceforth Convention delegates will adopt a biennial budget, rather than a single-year budget which will aid our planning considerably.

We hope you share our pride in these Convention actions.



Welcome New Members

Marianna Sathrum - Oceanside
Judith Sterling - Cardiff

Gladys Nielsen

Our League lost a good friend and supporter with the recent passing of Gladys Nielsen. An active member for over thirty years, Gladys was passionate about social justice issues and especially enjoyed registering voters. She participated in the League book group until her illness prevented her from doing so. Even then she continued to read widely and a discussion with her was always stimulating.

In addition to her work with our League, Gladys volunteered with the Community Resource Center for years and enthusiastically supported their mission. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in both organizations.



“Sunshine Lady”

Do you know that we have someone who sends cards to members who could use our support with an illness or bereavement? Please contact Julie Summers when we should send our thoughts and best wishes to a fellow League member.

Thank You

The League of Women Voters North Coast San Diego County is powered by the commitment of the time, energy, and financial gifts of its members and friends. Thanks to each of you for your support of our mission by being a member, or volunteering your time to support service to voters, or participating in studies and issues groups, and the special events throughout the year. Your efforts have made a difference. Thanks to each of you who have supported us with financial donations over and above your membership

dues during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2010.

- Barbara Mendell
- Barbara & William Berrier
- Barbara Wheeler
- Carol Grimes-Gartland
- Caroline Demar
- Cathy Greene
- Dolores Welty
- Doris Adrian
- Edie Appel
- Elaine Barton
- Evelyn Jones
- Frances Johnson
- Gail Tullao
- Gary Nessim & Kathy Kinane
- GG Greene Enterprises
- Gerry Williams
- Jackie & Gene Stone
- Jane Schatt
- Jane Slack
- Jeanne McFadden
- Joan Surridge
- Joy Lane
- Joy Naughton
- Kathie Rosvall
- Ladean Lore
- Liz Kruidenier
- Ann Heuton
- Nancy Hand
- Nancy Telford
- Patricia Leahy
- Patti Germain
- Peggy Dornish
- Ruth Clarke West
- Tina Schmidt
- Tracy Carmichael
- Veronica Seay

County League Day

A panel of speakers from both sides of the issue will explain AB 32 and Prop 23 and the history of Sustainability in California.

The meeting is cosponsored by the LWV San Diego (City) and LWV San Diego County.

Suggested donation: \$15

Carpooling is strongly suggested.

For the latest information on the speakers, please see our website. www.lwvncsd.org

Voter Service & Smart Voter

by Joyce Joseph
Smart Voter Coordinator,
San Diego County

Primary elections are held in even-numbered years in most California counties. They narrow down choices for voters in preparation for the general election in the fall. In primaries, candidates representing their own political parties run unopposed and often don't even campaign until fall. Voters are usually less interested in primary elections, as they prefer to wait for the more competitive races and local contests in the general election. This year's statewide general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2.

In spite of a low voter turnout predicted for June (38% in San Diego County), Smart Voter, the League's election website (www.smartvoter.org), provided close to five million page views of information for the public throughout the state, an amazing showing for a primary election!

County League Day

When?
August 24, 2010
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Where?
Rancho Bernardo Library
17110 Bernardo Center Drive
San Diego CA 92128

Subject:
Sustainability:
Can California Afford It
or Afford to Lose It?

San Diego County's Smart Voter site had excellent candidate participation, one of the best in the state. We expect an even better showing in November. Even candidates in the smaller local contests now create personal campaign websites, clearly understanding the power of the Internet as a tool to gain votes and contributions.

Our fall ballots will be full (always a California tradition) with state and local propositions, a number of run-off contests, and numerous races for city councils, school boards, hospital boards and the many special districts throughout our county. These measures and candidates will appear on Smart Voter, along with informational links to timely media pieces. And Smart Voter now offers opportunities for candidates and voters to link to the popular social networking sites.

For the primary, several members of our League again put in many hours of effort that contributed to our excellent results. Many thanks to Suzanne Carneiro, Ann Heuton, Tina Schmidt and Gail Tullao. This fall we will ask many of you to help encourage candidates to use our website. Follow-up e-mails, phone calls and personal contacts at candidate forums all help us produce a very successful website in our county.

The Smart Voter site will be reactivated by early September when certified ballot information is obtained from the Registrar. By that time, our league will be registering voters, presenting the pros and cons of the propositions, and moderating candidate forums in the north coastal area.

We believe the Internet is how the League of Women Voters will be known and used in the future. We need to demonstrate to candidates and to the public that our election

website is a vital service which provides unbiased, nonpartisan information to help voters make their own informed choices. The many complimentary e-mails and phone calls we continue to receive confirm this fact.

Meet League President, Elisabeth MacNamara: Let's Get in the Way!



The League's new president, Elisabeth MacNamara, was unanimously elected to a two-year term at the 49th Biennial National Convention in Atlanta on June 15th. In her stirring acceptance speech, she echoed keynote speaker and civil rights icon, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, in urging members to get out in front of issues and "get in the way."

MacNamara drew parallels from her legal background as Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County with the League's method of gathering facts, forming arguments, and getting in front of decision-making bodies. To rousing cheers from the audience, MacNamara cited the League's voice in historic healthcare reform and in getting corporations out of elections. Urging that the League embrace its core values of study, consensus-building, nonpartisanship, and speaking with one voice, MacNamara challenged members to find ways to lessen the League's administrative burdens by meeting

less, printing and mailing less, and focus on doing the League's business: observe, study, and act.

MacNamara has quickly stepped into the hectic role as League president. During the week of July 14th, MacNamara lobbied Senator Scott Brown in Boston, Massachusetts on behalf of the DISCLOSE Act (campaign finance bill that aims to restore transparency to U.S. elections after the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision) and then traveled to Knoxville, TN, where she fielded questions by WBIR anchor John Becker, who stated the League was perceived as "Democrat" and questioned if this hurt the League in "conservative" East Tennessee. All in a week's work for MacNamara, who is determined to be visible and relevant in channeling the grassroots energy of the League's 150,000 members.

MacNamara's history with the League began in 1983 when she was invited to join the Georgia state Board as the Courts/Criminal Justice chair. She served on that Board until 1991, including roles as vice president for Program and secretary. In 1984, she joined the Board of the DeKalb League, serving as Courts/Criminal Justice chair, Education Committee chair, vice president, and secretary between 1984 and 1997, and as president in 1997. MacNamara rejoined the Georgia State Board in 1999 and served as president from 2001-2006. In 2006, MacNamara joined the League's national Board as First Vice President.

MacNamara graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University with a BA in 1976 and a JD in 1979. She lives in DeKalb, Georgia and has two sons.

Biannual League Observer Reports

MiraCosta Community College Observers Barbara Mendell and Nancy Hand report that the current President of MiraCosta Community College is Dr. Francisco Rodriguez who joined MCC in March of 2009.

A Carlsbad attorney has challenged the legality of the financial settlement made between MiraCosta and former President Victoria Munoz Richart. A state appeals court has agreed that some of the \$1.6 million settlement was an illegal expenditure. It is unclear what this decision will mean financially for the college.

The Accreditation Evaluation Team visited the MiraCosta campus in March and attended the board meeting. Their final evaluation has not been received.

On-line education has grown by 300% at MCC from 2002 to the present.

The formal opening of the new concert hall on the Oceanside campus took place on March 27 with Mozart's Requiem. The hall seats 400 and was designed specifically for vocal and instrumental performances.

North County Transit District Observer Leita McCormick reports that the outsourcing of bus drivers and mechanics, which took effect recently, is expected to save NCTD \$10 million a year—wiping out the projected \$20 million shortfall they faced in 2013.

Other savings will come from the use of smaller 24' buses, which cost less than half as much to operate as bigger 40' buses, and the replacement of the \$800,000 rail enforcement contract with the Sheriff's Department and a new contract with the Encinitas Sheriff's Station with a savings of \$550,000.

Ridership on the Sprinter fluctuates, higher when fuel prices skyrocket, lower when fuel prices go down, but is increasing a little each year.

The District will lower the price of Sprinter passes for students, faculty and staff at UCSM and Palomar this fall by almost half.

Future projects include doubling the tracks along the 60-mile rail corridor, which will start mid-June.

The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego Fairgrounds) observer Nancy Dietrich reports that the San Diego Fairgrounds and Horse-park Equestrian Facility are operated by the 22nd District Agricultural Association on behalf of the State.

The 22nd DAA produces five events each year: The San Diego County Fair, the Del Mar National Horse Show, Professional Bull Riding, The Scream Zone and Holiday of Lights. The Fairgrounds hosts more than 350 events annually, the largest of which is the live horse racing meet each summer, which is operated by the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club for the 22nd DAA and the State of California.

With revenue from satellite wagering down statewide, the 22nd DAA is looking for ways to increase attendance at its brick-and-mortar facility. Del Mar is favoring an ordinance allowing bingo, most likely as early as September. Proceeds would be used for the Don Diego Scholarship fund, capital improvements to the fairgrounds, and possibly donations to other local nonprofits such as the financially strained San Dieguito River Park Joint Power Authority. The 22nd DAA estimates that bingo would generate \$200,000 per year at \$4,000 per session.

Buena Vista Lagoon Joint Powers Committee Observer Connie Ulrich reports that the lagoon lies within the cities of Carlsbad and Oceanside and is owned and managed by the California Department of Fish & Game. It is slowly becoming choked with reeds and sediment and is predicted to become a wet meadow within 50 years. Fish and game favors a tidal flushing solution to solve this problem. The residents near the mouth of the lagoon will not sell their properties to allow widening the mouth of the lagoon unless their concerns are met. They oppose the tidal flushing, saltwater alternative because it will eliminate the beach access between Oceanside and Carlsbad and necessitate building large jetties which will probably sand-starve beaches to the south. Fish & Game argues there are already adequate, regional fresh water sites for migratory birds, and since most biologists agree there is a dearth of salt water estuaries, it is important, globally, that this lagoon be saltwater.

Tri-City Healthcare District Observer Mary Beth Tompane reports that the Healthcare District continues to face serious financial challenges. After many months, the District was finally able to restructure auction rate securities. Efforts to improve financial performance include: Recruitment of new surgeons; expansion of surgical capabilities; recruitment of medical groups and expansion of cardiovascular, orthopedic, neurological and oncology services.

There continues to be drama from Board of Director's actions. To review: After putting CEO Arthur Gonzalez and seven other administrators on paid leave in 2008, the Board hired Larry Anderson as interim CEO with an 18-month contract at an annual salary of \$480,000, only to vote to oust him eight months later.

Then reversing itself again, the board voted to extend the contract with the CEO to keep his job at least until mid August.

Dr. Madeline Rodriguez abruptly left a heated board meeting, and said later she was quitting the panel. Tri-City Medical Center directors have 60 days to replace a board member.

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association awarded Tri-City Medical Center its 2010 "Grand Golden Fleece" at an annual awards banquet held in San Diego.

Palomar Airport Advisory Board Observer Connie Ulrich reports that PAAC meetings are open to the public with time set aside to ask questions or comment on agenda items and discuss every complaint lodged against the airport in the past month.

In response to the public's questions and concerns about airport operations, the committee and airport staff have offered to meet with local Home Owner Associations to discuss airport operations and answer homeowners' questions. So far this year, no HOA has asked for this "Fly Friendly" presentation.

A recent Part 150 Study indicated the noise level at Palomar Airport does not meet the FAA criteria for mandatory noise abatement procedures. Palomar has been designated a "noise sensitive airport" requiring any resident located within its noise footprint to notify prospective buyers when they sell. Recently a prospective buyer backed out of purchasing a home in the area. The airport has gone from an annual high of 250,000 operations to a forecasted 175,000 for 2010. Yet while flight operations are down there's been a 900% increase in complaints. April 2010 hit a 10-year high with 554 complaints for 12,523 operations.

One person generated 210 complaints, another person 120.

Oceanside Public Library Observer Kathy Christy reports that budget cuts continue to be the major concern since the library, as well as other city departments, had to pare another 20% from the budget. The proposed reductions would impact employees and services.

Nineteen hourly extra-help positions would be cut. Three full-time permanent librarian and assistant positions would be eliminated. One full-time position would be reduced to part-time.

The books and materials budget will be cut by 20%, or \$75,000. This is a cumulative reduction of 35% since 2008.

By reducing bookmobile operation from 5 days per week to 2 days per week, fleet expenses would be cut by \$25,000. A number of library programs would be curtailed. Fewer staff at the information desk would result in limited individual computer assistance for patrons. The literacy program would be reduced from 44 hours per week to 27 hours, maintaining the minimum level of operation necessary to qualify for state matching funds.

The Friends of the Library and The Library Foundation continue their fundraising efforts.

Carlsbad Library Board observer Carolyn Taylor reports that their current budget reflects only a 2.7% reduction in funding. The library continues to update procedures such as the capability to use credit cards for fees at checkout. Some rental fees for library facilities are going up. Over 1,000 Carlsbad residents participated in "Carlsbad Reads Together." The library has YouTube and Twitter accounts.

Carlsbad City Council Observer Tina Schmidt reports that five new departments were added to the city, realigning some managers into key positions. The staff's goal is to streamline the working process by consolidating departments and reducing staffing. However, environmental management was expanded to meet new related mandates and regulations.

The city government has adapted to the recession, continuing the high level of core services the community expects, and doing it with less money. Council goals are an increased emphasis on working with the business community to expand existing businesses and attract new ones while strengthening the local economy, tourism and business diversity.

Property taxes are down with a decrease in property assessed values. Retail sales are way down and TOT taxes are down due to lower hotel occupancy and discounted room rates. However, development-related fees are up, due to the new plans for the Hilton Resort at Ponto, a Lowe's Shopping complex, the Green Dragon Colonial Village and a few single family homes in East CBD. Therefore, the budget cutbacks for the current fiscal year ending June 2010 appear to have been effective in keeping us from deficit spending. The first look at the proposed new city budget posted recently projects a flat economy with no new programs and no expanded levels of service. Capital projects and their funding, which includes infrastructure such as sewers and water, are going forward and take the biggest bite out of the coffer. That money is already held in a reserve and is not dependent upon the local economy and taxes. The Council has shown a great deal of restraint in spending and have been good managers of our money.

Del Mar School District Observer Connie Ulrich reports that Superintendent Sharon McClain was fired by the Board in April for cause and that James Peabody was hired as the Interim Superintendent. Comischell Rodriguez resigned as Board President saying she had been isolated by a majority of the Board and attempts had been made to exclude her from closed session conversations. She remains on the Board and Steve McDowell was named President.

The DMUSD Strategic Plan Financial Task Force presented their final report, recommending how the reserve fund should be used if the district loses its Basic Aid status (based on property taxes rather than daily attendance) and consideration of major budget cuts only if the reserve fund falls to a minimum level.

They recommended the Board listen to parents--and not set classroom numbers based on anticipated cuts, but rather work within current funding levels to keep classes small. The Board subsequently decided to return to a classroom ratio of 20:1 and 27:1 versus an anticipated 21:1 and 28:1

Encinitas City Council Observer Martha Cox reports that the first Encinitas City Council meeting she attended on January 13th was an interesting start to observing this agency. After 48 community members spoke, accommodated by the council with four extensions of the meeting/time limit, the motion to approve the plan carried at 12:25 AM.

Actions taken at subsequent meetings include: adoption of a resolution to join the CaliforniaFIRST program which would allow Encinitas property owners to apply for State Energy Program funds; entering into agreement with Scripps Memorial Hospital for the beach

re-nourishment project; participation in the local governments for sustainability agency taking a lead role in promoting public awareness of climate change and emission reduction; reviewing the red light camera operations and approval of a new contract; and approval of the waiver of attorney client privilege in the March 3, 2010 legal opinion regarding Councilwoman Barth's complaints of harassment, thereby making them part of the public record.

Please note that these abbreviated reports don't do justice to the observer's live reports. Come to the twice-yearly Observer Meetings for much more information.

Help Wanted

The LWV is a grass roots volunteer organization. Our success is in large measure due to the volunteer efforts of our members. We need you!

We need volunteers to observe the Oceanside City Council, the City of Oceanside Planning Commission, Vista City Council, the City of Vista Planning Commission, Vista Unified School District, San Dieguito Union High School District and the Tri-City Healthcare District.

Please call Connie Ulrich, LWVNC Observer Chair, for more information.

Nitrogen Threat by Diane Mochizuki Natural Resources Chair

Man-made nitrogen fertilizer was the fuel of the green revolution of the '50s through '70s. It prevented famine due to an ever-growing population in many parts of the world. However, we now know there are downsides for the environment. Excess Nitrogen used by farmers in most parts of the world washes into lakes, rivers, and the sea. In the U.S. alone, as much as 40% of the reactive nitrogen is wasted. This nitrogen, together with nitrogen from powerplant smokestacks, has serious effects on the environment. Excess nitrogen causes rampant algae growth in lakes and oceans and creates an ever-growing number of oxygen-depleted "dead zones." Atmospheric nitrogen, in the form of Nitrous oxide (NOx), consumes the ozone layer and is nearly 300 times as potent as carbon dioxide, considered the leading cause of climate change and the third most threatening greenhouse gas overall. Precipitation nitrogen is altering ecosystems worldwide. Native plants are being replaced by nitrogen-loving grasses.

What is being done? The EPA is moving to mandate new clean-air standards that will remove 90% of NOx emissions from stationary sources. The new standards force powerplants to install nitrogen-removal equipment. Farmers are beginning to use new tools to determine precisely how much nitrogen fertilizer to apply.

What can you do? Support EPA clean-air standards. When you fertilize, try to use natural, not chemical nitrogen fertilizers. Natural fertilizers break down more slowly and are not as likely to be washed into the storm drain system.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Living-Green/2010/0113/Earth-s-growing-nitrogen-threat>

League of Women Voters
North Coast San Diego County
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Facts Every Californian Needs by Mary Thompson

State President Janis R. Hirohama lamented California's continuing "dysfunctional spiral" in her remarks at the LWVCA leadership council in May.

"Governance in California has continued its downward dysfunctional spiral. The most obvious example of this is the ongoing state budget crisis. We've seen state workers furloughed. We've seen our elected leaders continue to use gimmicks and accounting tricks to paper over the fact that we have a serious structural budget deficit and to avoid making tough decisions. And we've seen cuts to essential programs, many of which serve our most needy and vulnerable residents."

Stay informed with facts about California's budget drama by using FAST FACTS, part of the EasyVoter website. These materials are nonpartisan and subjected to a community review process and fact checking by the California Legislative Analysts Office.

http://lwvc.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=easyvoter_education_fast_facts

Join the League of Women Voters

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens of voting age. Others are welcome as Associate members.

Dues:
() \$60/ year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30) with dues prorated at \$5.00/month for those joining mid-year.
() \$30/year for 2nd member, same address.
() \$100/year Suffragist membership, for those who are able to give additional support to our local League.

Total Dues \$ _____
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to LWV-NCSDC and mail to: LWV-NCSDC, PO Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013

Questions?
Contact Membership Chair Edie Appel at 760-736-1608