



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.

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 Editor: Veronica Seay

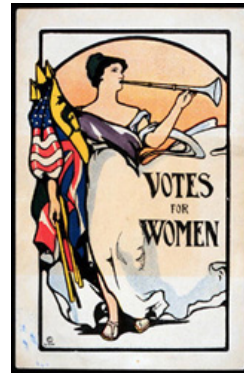
LWV Telephone 760-736-1608
 P.O. Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013 www.lwvncsd.org

May 2010

- Saturday, May 1 8:30 AM County League Convention
Ca Botana Academy
- Tuesday, May 4 9:30 AM Health Care Interest Group
at the home of Kathie Rosvall
- Thursday, May 6 9:15 AM Board Meeting at the home of
Liz Kruidenier
- Thursday, May 6 Noon Sustainability Interest Group
Leucadia Waste Water Office
- Friday, May 7 10 AM Founders Lunch Committee Mtg.
Leucadia Waste Water Office
- Wed., May 12 6:30 PM Pro/Con - June Ballot Measures**
Carlsbad by the Sea, Carlsbad
- Monday, May 17 1:15 PM Book Group at the home of Nancy
Telford
- Wed., May 19 1:00 PM San Dieguito Unit Meeting at the
Encinitas Library
- Friday, May 21 9:45 AM Women's Issues Group
Leucadia Waste Water Office
- Saturday, May 22 9:15 AM Annual Meeting** at Lomas Santa Fe
Country Club, Solana Beach

June 2010

- Tuesday, June 1 9:30 AM Health Care Interest Group at the
home of Kathie Rosvall
- Saturday, June 5 10 AM Carlsbad Unit Observer Luncheon
at the home of Tina Schmidt
- Monday, June 7 9:30 AM Media Monitors Interest Group at
the home of Phyllis Rosenbaum
- Tuesday, June 8 ELECTION DAY**
- Wed., June 9 11:30 AM San Dieguito Observer Luncheon
at the home of Nancy Hand
- Monday, June 14 10:30 AM Oceanside/Vista Observer Luncheon
at the home of Kathie Rosvall
- Friday, June 18 9:45 AM Women's Issues Group
Leucadia Waste Water Office
- Monday, June 21 1:15 PM Book Group - place tbd



2010 Call to the FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

**LWV North Coast
San Diego
County
Saturday, May 22
9:15 AM - Noon**

Please reserve your place early to attend our Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting. Your Annual Meeting Packet with program details will be mailed.

We will meet at held at the *Lomas Santa Fe Country Club* on Lomas Santa Fe Drive in Solana Beach. Register at 9:15, greet your friends, meet new members and enjoy a continental breakfast.

We are fortunate to have Bob Montgomery, Executive Director of the International Rescue Committee in San Diego. He will speak to us about the IRC's work in San Diego especially the programs they offer to their refugee clients.

The nominees for election to the board of directors are: Nancy Telford, 1st Vice President; Connie Ulrich, Secretary; Martha Cox, Treasurer; and directors Cathy Greene, Joann Johnson, Leita McCormick, and Diane Mochizuki.

There will be a proposal by the board to raise the dues to \$60 for regular members and \$30 for the second member of the same household. After the budget committee's presentation members will approve the budget.

continued on page 2



Dorothy I. Height

The View from Here

by Peggy Dornish

“Dressed Up and Not Put Down”

Dorothy I. Height (1912-2010), “the godmother of the Civil Rights movement,” as President Obama described her, died on April 20 at the age of 98. Like many of the heroic women I have written about, she was “flying under the radar” so far as the general public was concerned although she was well known and beloved in the African American community. She was a regal “hat and gloves” lady who gracefully but insistently shouldered the burdens of both the civil rights and women’s rights movements, yet she never sought the limelight for herself.

Dorothy encountered racial prejudice early in life. As her high school’s representative to a Pennsylvania state oratorical contest, she was refused admittance to the hotel where all the other finalists were preparing for the contest in which they would have to speak extemporaneously on an Article in the Bill of Rights chosen by lot. Undaunted, she bought some bologna and peanut butter for lunch, dressed in the ladies room of the contest hall, and won first prize. As the valedictorian of her class, with scholarship in hand, she was accepted at Barnard College, only to be turned away when she arrived because, she was told, its quota of black students--two--had already been admitted for the fall semester. Instead, she went to NYU, where she graduated in three years and received a master’s degree in educational psychology in her fourth year.

Dorothy first became active in the civil rights movement as a welfare case worker in Harlem. It was there she went nightclubbing with composer W. C. Handy and expected to be “dressed up and not put down.” Realizing she needed a broader basis for her civil rights activities, she joined the staff of the

Harlem YWCA. In the 1940’s she went to Washington, D. C. where she organized and directed the YWCA Center for Racial Justice. In that position she fostered studies on issues of human rights around the world. In 1957, she became president of the National Council of Negro Women. In that role, and predating the women’s rights movement, she gave equal time and attention to overcoming entrenched gender bias in our society. Throughout her career, she chose collective meetings and conversations rather than confrontation to forward her goal of social justice. As she said--and did--“If the times aren’t ripe, we have to ripen the times.”

Theater Party - Thanks

by Leita McCormick

This year’s April 25 Theater Party and Raffle were both a social and financial success. As usual, the display of food was fabulous, the play was superb and the raffle prizes were drawn for 18 delighted winners. As a result of all the hard work by the Committee and generous donations of our members, we have nearly reached our 2010-2011 fundraising goal.

There is a much overused phrase bandied about, “we couldn’t have done it without you” is true. I would like to thank the committee of Edie Appel, Suzanne Carneiro, Martha Cox, Rosella Heffner, Ladine Lore, Alice Rodin-Segal, Nancy Telford and Connie Ulrich. I also want to thank the many members who brought food for the buffet.

Treasurer Martha Cox reports that we had a net profit of \$2650 from ticket sales and \$1847 from the raffle. Good work everyone.

Annual meeting continued from page 1

Each of the three Units, Carlsbad, Oceanside/Vista, and San Dieguito will propose their issues for emphasis for the coming year.

Make a reservation by sending a check made out to LWV-NCSDC for \$18.00 to:

Martha Cox, Treasurer
LWV North Coast San Diego County
PO Box 131272
Carlsbad CA 92013

Observer Luncheons

by Connie Ulrich, Observer Chair

Mark your calendars for the June Observer Report Luncheons.

Throughout the year members of the Observer Corps attend the meetings of the local public agencies in their community. Acting as the eyes and ears of League, they sit quietly, observe and take notes during the proceedings.

Then twice a year, in June and December, the LWV North Coast Observers report back to their Units. All members are invited to attend these luncheon meetings and hear the Observers' impressions and observations of the governmental bodies they cover. Unit members can decide, after hearing the reports, if any action needs to be taken, such as a letter to the committee, or the editor of the local newspaper or public testimony.

The luncheons are among the most popular meetings we have, so be sure to let your hostess know if you are planning to attend. Check the schedule below for the date, time and location of your Unit luncheon.

Carlsbad Saturday, June 5, at 10 AM, at the home of Tina Schmidt, 6545 Basalto Street, Carlsbad. Observer reports at 10 AM with potluck immediately after. Last names A-H please bring a salad; I-Q a main course or casserole; R-Z a dessert. Please call Tina for directions.

San Dieguito Wednesday, June 9, at 11:30 AM at the home of Nancy Hand, 4545 Caminito San Sebastian, Del Mar. Please bring a salad/light entree or a dessert. Call Nancy for the gate code.



Oceanside/Vista Monday, June 14, at 10:30 AM, at the home of Kathie Rosvall. Please call Kathie for directions and indicate what food you will bring.



www.smartvoter.org

by Joyce Joseph, County Coordinator of SV

Most local candidates in the north coastal area will appear on our November ballots. However, as always in California, we'll have many important decisions to make in the upcoming primary. There is a special local election in Oceanside to fill a vacant city council seat. There are five contested judges' races, and primary election challengers for county officials in Supervisorial Districts 4 and 5, Sheriff, Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Assessor/Recorder/Clerk. Since this is a primary election, in our registered parties we'll choose candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Board of Equalization. Also, we will choose candidates for CA Senate, CA Assembly and party central committees. At the Federal level, we'll choose party candidates for U.S. Senator and Congressional Representatives. Top candidates in the partisan contests will face each other in the fall general election.

And there's more: five state propositions, two county propositions (creation of a recycling center and term limits for the Board of Supervisors), and three local measures that affect the cities of Del Mar, Oceanside and Solana Beach.

There is a fast, easy way to be informed about all these candidates and measures. Go to smartvoter.org the League's award-winning website, enter your address, and your entire ballot will appear. You can read additional information submitted by candidates, details of the propositions, and links to local media. Then spread the word so that others will be better informed voters. League members throughout the county help the website run smoothly. Suzanne Carneiro, Ann Heuton, Gail Tullao and Tina Schmidt are special assistants from the North Coast League. We'll turn to more of you before the election to help convince all candidates to take part in this valuable free service for voters.

Voter Service

Voter Registration Activities

Student Government

Election at MiraCosta College

A group of Leaguers assisted MiraCosta College with the student government election at the Learning Center in Oceanside on April 14 and 15. Charlotte Gumbrell, Todd Ratzesberger, Marileen Johnson, Peggy Dornish, Nancy Telford, Kathy Christy and Elaine Barton worked the polls. It was a learning experience for both us and the students, most of whom are English learners or special needs students. Many of these students were voting for the first time and were thrilled by the experience. We look forward to partnering with MiraCosta again next year.

Voter Registration Event Coming Soon

Many League members look forward to registering voters in their community. It is a perfect opportunity for us to perform a valuable community service and to interact with the people in our cities. The deadline for registering to vote in the June 8 Primary is May 24.

We will hold a day of voter registration on Tuesday, May 18. We will be registering voters in Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista. Please contact Kathy Christy to sign up for a time and location. Kathy Christy looks forward to hearing from you.

May Bulletin Board

Pros & Cons of the Ballot Measures at

Carlsbad by the Sea

On Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 PM, there will be a presentation of the Pros & Cons of the State and County ballot measures as well as some local measures. This meeting is open to the public. Carlsbad By the Sea at 2855 Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad is hosting the meeting.

May Book Group

All are welcome to join the Book Group on Monday, May 17, to discuss Jon Meacham's *American Lion*, the story of Andrew Jackson: President, Politician, General, Soldier, Farmer. We meet at Nancy Telford's home at 1:15 PM. Anne Omsted will lead the discussion. June's selection is to be announced. Questions? Call Carolyn Taylor

San Dieguito Unit

The San Dieguito Unit will have a very special meeting on May 19. The Encinitas Library will host the Unit at the library from 1 to 3 PM.

Sandy Housley, Librarian, will educate us about library services. These services have come a long way since we first began using libraries. It will be very interesting even for those who do not live in Encinitas. We will gather at the library at 540 Cornish Drive, Encinitas.

League Issues Group Meetings

New Members are welcome and encouraged to attend any meetings of potential interest. Groups are a great place to meet other League members and explore areas of group study.

Health Care Interest Group

On Tuesday, May 4, at 9:30 AM, the meeting will be held at the home of Kathie Rosvall. Contact Kathie Rosvall if you have any questions.

Sustainability Group

Thursday, May 6, at noon at the Leucadia Wastewater District office. Join us for brown bag lunch as we discuss water bond issues on the November ballot and the Encinitas General Plan update as it relates to climate change. Call Diane Mochizuki with questions.

Women's Issues

Friday, May 21, at 9:45 AM, at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office. We will continue evaluation of voting records of elected women officials as well as progress on the 50/50 by 2020 Equal Representation goal. Call Leita McCormick with any questions.

New to League

Contact Jackie Stone at 760-434-9350 or Nancy Telford at 760-753-3487 about dates for the next meeting.

**Our website has updates and maps to meeting locations.*

www.lwvncsd.org



**Welcome
New Members**

- Lorraine Cox – Encinitas
- Farrah Douglas - Carlsbad
- Sue Hartley – Carlsbad
- Claudia Jean – Carlsbad
- Christina Ryker - Oceanside
- Rita Sweeting - Vista

**Founders Day
Luncheon**

Save the Date
Saturday, October 2, 2010

Please join us at our
Founders Day Luncheon
Hilton Garden Inn
Carlsbad

Our guest speaker will be:
Dr. Karen S. Haynes, President
California State University
San Marcos
Her topic: Women as Leaders:
Past, Present and Future

Add This to your Calendar
Today!

A Worthwhile Event for
League Members & Friends

June Bulletin Board

**Carlsbad Unit
Observer Luncheon**

Saturday, June 5, at 10 AM, at the home of Tina Schmidt, 6545 Balsalto Street, Carlsbad. Observer reports at 10 AM with potluck immediately after. Last names A-H please bring a salad; I-Q a main course or casserole; R-Z a dessert. Please call Tina for directions.

**San Dieguito Unit
Observer Luncheon**

On June 9th we will hold our Observer’s luncheon at the home of Nancy Hand from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. Observer meetings are always fun and a great way to find out what is going on in our area, plus we have wonderful food. Please call Nancy at 858-759-1661 to RSVP. She will tell you whether to bring a main dish or dessert. She will also give you directions to her home and the gate code.

**Oceanside/Vista Unit
Observer Luncheon**

Monday, June 14, at 10:30 AM, at the home of Kathie Rosvall. Please call Kathie for directions and indicate what food you will bring.

* * *

Note that your next VOTER will be the Midsummer edition.

* * *

**League Issues Group
Meetings**

Groups will take a summer break after June. Meetings will resume in September. Contact Diane Mochizuki if you are interested in forming a new group. Have a wonderful summer.

**Health Care Interest
Group**

Tuesday, June 1 at 9:30 AM
The meeting will be held at the home of Kathie Rosvall. Contact Kathie Rosvall or Jackie Stone if you have any questions.

Media Monitors

Monday, June 7 at 9:30 AM
The meeting will be held at the home of Phyllis Rosenbaum. Contact Roger Fox for additional information.

Sustainability Group

If further preparation for our survey is required, we will meet at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office on June 3 at noon. Please watch for email notice or call Diane Mochizuki

Women’s Issues

Friday, June 18 at 9:45 AM
at the Leucadia Wastewater District office.

We plan to discuss Education Policy, in addition to the possibility of forming a spin-off group. Call Leita McCormick with any questions.

New to League

Contact Jackie Stone at 760-434-9350 or Nancy Telford at 760-753-3487 about dates for the next meeting.

LWVC State Action Report

by Mary Thompson

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 8

As you know, the League is actually two organizations—a member organization and an Education Fund, which serves the public by informing voters so they can make conscious choices when they cast their ballots. The League Education Fund is a nonprofit tax-deductible educational organization which conducts our voter service and citizen education activities.

Advocacy

LWVC's member organization takes positions on public policy issues based on consensus positions adopted after study, data collection and discussion. When new laws are proposed, as with the measures on the June 8 ballot, LWVC compares those proposed laws and makes a decision to support, oppose, or take no position.

Proposition 13: Limits on Property Tax Assessment. Seismic Retrofitting of Existing Buildings. The League generally supports regular, frequent reappraisals for property tax purposes; this measure excludes certain construction from reappraisal, however, there is the public safety benefit. *The League takes no position on this proposition.*

Proposition 14: Increases Right to Participate in Primary Elections. This measure is characterized as “top-two candidate open primary.” Because current League positions do not cover this issue, *the League has taken no stand on this issue.*

Proposition 15: California Fair Elections Act. *LWVC supports Proposition 15* based on a strong correlation with both LWVUS and LWVC Campaign Finance positions of enabling candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access. Prop 15 is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates.

Proposition 16: Imposes New Two-Thirds Majority Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. This measure would require local governments to have the approval of two-thirds of the voters before providing electricity to new customers, expanding service into new territory, or contracting with electric service providers through a community choice aggregation (CCA) program using public funds or bonds. *LWVC opposes Proposition 16* based on two LWVC positions. The LWVC Finance position supports a flexible process that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. LWVC's Energy position calls for policies that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment, public health and safety at reasonable rates.

PG&E, the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. PG&E has turned to the initiative process to require not just approval by the voters, but a two-thirds supermajority vote for nearly any local action that would take the sale of electric power away from PG&E and transfer it to local government or allow them to purchase it through a CCA. That means that PG&E would only have to gain the support of a minority of local voters to defeat any such local measure.

The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.

Proposition 17: Allows Auto Insurance Companies to base Their Prices in Part on a Driver’s History of Insurance Coverage.

This measure would change the law set by Prop 103 in 1988 which prohibits an insurance company from using a customer’s overall history of coverage as a factor in setting the price of auto insurance (individual loyalty discounts are allowed). This change would allow continuous coverage to be a factor in auto insurance pricing. Because LWVC has no relevant position which would cover Proposition 17, *the League has taken no position.*

LWVC’s Action Guide for the June 8 election provides a comprehensive statement on the League’s positions, with details and talking points.

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/action/2010jun/action-guide.pdf>

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:

() \$55/ year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30) with dues prorated at \$4.50/month for those joining mid-year.

() \$25/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

Voting Information

June 2010 Ballot Choices for “Decline-to-State” Voters

How you choose to register to vote affects the kind of ballot you will be allowed to use in the June 8, 2010 Primary Election. If you are registered with one of the six official political parties in California, for partisan offices your ballot will just have candidates from your party. If you checked “I decline to state a political party” or “No, I don’t want to register with a political party” on the registration form, your ballot will list ballot measures and all candidates for nonpartisan offices but no candidates for partisan offices. However, for this election both the Democratic and Republican parties are allowing “decline-to-state” voters to request their party’s ballot. None of the other parties have agreed to allow crossover voting. If you are a “decline-to-state” voter who votes by mail, you must send your county registrar the back cover of your sample ballot requesting a Democratic or Republican Primary ballot. You can also call your elections office. Some important deadlines:

May 24, 2010: last day to register to vote in the Primary Election on June 8, 2010

June 1, 2010: last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot

“Video Voter Minutes” on the Ballot Measures

In partnership with the nonpartisan Center for Governmental Studies, the Easy Voter Guide Project is producing 90-second “Video Voter Minutes” on each of the five propositions on the June ballot. Look for these videos online on the LWVCEF* YouTube Channel in early May. Links to the videos will also appear on www.easyvoter.org and www.smartvoter.org.

*LWV of California Education Fund

*League of Women Voters
North Coast San Diego County
Post Office Box 131272
Carlsbad, CA 92013*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non -Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
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Encinitas, CA 92024
Permit No. 70034**

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

by Diane Mochizuki

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a gyre of marine litter in the central Pacific Ocean, approximately 1000 miles off the coast of California. It was discovered in 1997 by Captain Charles Moore. The garbage patch is roughly the size of Texas, containing approximately 3.5 million tons of trash, shoes, toys, bags, pacifiers, wrappers, toothbrushes, and bottles too numerous to count. Most of the waste is comprised of plastic which takes over 500 years to degrade. It is broken down into increasingly smaller pieces by a process known as photodegradation. It is these degraded pieces that pose great hazards for birds and animals. The plastic debris compromises the vitality of the oceans from the lowest to highest members of the food chain. As filter feeders, fish and birds ingest the plastic which fills them up but provides no nutritional value and in many instances cannot be eliminated. In addition, plastic material concentrates toxic or-

ganic chemicals and environmental pollutants up to one million times in the surrounding seawater. Many of these chemicals are “endocrine disrupters” that can have profound negative effects on the reproductive systems of animals and humans.

So why no clean-up? The gyre resides in international waters, or more than 200 miles away from any country. Therefore, no country will take ownership. The international community (UN) lacks the resources to clean up the mess. Currently, 90% of the pollution (primarily plastic) comes from land-based activities, and 80% of that is plastic. Unfortunately less than 3.5% of all plastic is recycled. At this time the best solutions are to: avoid single-use plastic bags; recycle all plastic; replace plastic with wood or glass-based products. Solana Beach already has a program to recycle plastic bags into TREX products. You can drop off bags at most Solana Beach cleaners, the Fire Station, Staples, Marshalls and Thinker Things. In addition, check the web for vendors who sell reusable produce bags.