



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 71 No. 9

November 2007

We join with two powerful groups! Our Waterfront --- San Diego's Jewel on the Bay or another Miami Beach?

Our northern waterfront, between Seaport Village and the Coast Guard facility, is in the process of being revitalized and redeveloped. Right now, it is being compromised by a series of decisions leading the City further from the original spirit and intention of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan.

An important factor missing in the series of recent decisions (which allow for mega-yacht berths, a permanent cruise ship terminal at the Broadway Pier, and the Navy Broadway Complex) is a public dialogue on the shape, form and intention of these important places along our waterfront.

A dynamic program is being co-sponsored by Citizens Coordinate for Century 3, and the local chapter of Partners for Livable Places to further this public dialogue.

We have assembled a noteworthy panel to address the future of San Diego's last remaining slice of downtown waterfront. You won't want to miss the luncheon on November 28! Send your check to ensure your reservation to LWV, 4901 Morena Blvd., #104, San Diego 92117 by November 21.

For article continuation and registration form, see page 3

LWV Holiday Party, 2007

Preparations are underway for this year's Holiday Party, a festive Sunday Brunch, on December 9, beginning at 11:30 a.m. It will again be at the Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego. Parking should be no problem on a Sunday in the garage beneath the Center.

In this Voter you will find an invitation with a tear-off for returning your reservation. Once again we will have our popular Silent Auction with many donations of certificates for San Diego events and opportunities to dine at various restaurants. It is a good time to purchase holiday gifts as well. Tickets are \$30.00.

Assisting this year is our newest intern, from SDSU, Tiffany Marlow-Castro, and her husband, Roberto. The League Committee at this writing includes Jeanne Brown, Susan Starr, Bonnie Rose, Sally Bucko, Catherine Stoll, and Beryl Flom. As usual, many more Leaguers help out as we come closer to our date. The particulars will also be on the website. Please respond as early as you can so that we are able to provide the Kroc Center with the number expected.

Jody Tadder, Chair, 858-277-4576

A timely and thought-provoking
"Lunch with League"
co-sponsored by
**Citizens Coordinate for Century 3
Partners for Livable Places**

Wednesday, November 28, 11:30 a.m.
Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant, Harbor Island

The exciting panel will include:

- Laurie Black, San Diego Port Commissioner
- Peter Q. Davis, former Port Commission Chair and CCDC Board Member
- Howard Blackson, C-3 Chair and Urban Planner
moderated by
- Roger Showley, Home Section columnist,
San Diego Union-Tribune

Plan to come early as visuals of the waterfront and existing and planned development will be on display.



Tiffany and Jody prepare for the Auction

**League of Women Voters
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Membership:

Please welcome our recent new members.

New Members	Zip
Benita Berkson	92116
Mary Kip Cioffi	92109
Roberta Froome	92124
Erika Kalter	92126
Catherine Lea	92104
Barbara Mitchell	92131
Esther Muller	92037
Earlene Peterson	91910

Letter from the President

I would like to thank Shirley Vaine, who has resigned the LWV presidency, for her assistance to the League over these last four months. Her participation has provided the Board with new opportunities to regroup and move forward with fresh energy.

I'm pleased and honored to step into the role of President of the LWVSD and be given the opportunity to work closely with all of you on our basic goals: to promote voter education and to advocate for League's good government principles and positions. The LWVSD has a unique contribution to make to our community. The better we do our job, the bigger and stronger our organization will become.

Most of you already know me well. For the past eight years I have carried the portfolio of Advocacy and Public Policy for the LWVSD and chaired the Public Policy Committee. Through the hard work and persistence of dedicated League members, our city League has become a community voice to be reckoned with -- a relevant force for good government in a city that has few other civic groups able or willing to speak out. More people than you might imagine depend on the San Diego League for the irreplaceable work we do.

We've got a hectic year ahead, with the demands of three important elections in February, June, and November 2008 in addition to several major city issues to monitor. The devastating October fires that rampaged through our city and county will have untold impacts on every aspect of government and community life. It's a human, business, health, housing, and fiscal calamity that could precipitate a new era of public interest policy-making to minimize future catastrophes. Or this calamity could be used to justify a heavy-handed authoritarian response to city affairs. In either case, we've got our work cut out for us in the very unpredictable coming year.

Here's how to reach me: ndamashek@ucsd.edu. Wherever your interests lie in promoting a healthier city and society, there's a place for you in the League of Women Voters. New blood, old blood, blue blood or red, we're all in this together. And working together, we stand a better chance of making a difference.

Norma Damashek, President

Firestorm 2007!

The Board of Directors of the San Diego League would like to express its sympathy and concern to all those affected by the wildfires that tore through our County last week. Please know that the whole City and County are wishing you well.

Donations Needed For Holiday Party!

To add to the fun and excitement of the Silent Auction, Leaguers are asked to solicit contributions from their favorite businesses, their friends, and their own homes. The contributions can be mailed to or dropped off at the office, 4901 Morena Blvd., Ste. 104, San Diego, 92117.

The office will be open on three drop-off days for your convenience:

- Sunday, November 18, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, November 27, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Call 619-857-1807 for information or for directions to the Office.

“Our Waterfront”

(continued from page 1)

While water-related and tourist uses are appropriate, a look at what has happened to the South Embarcadero has led to the conclusion that we should not repeat the same mistakes in the North Embarcadero. We have watched as the Bay was walled off with the Convention Center (and its expansion) and a host of mega-hotels, which made it nearly impossible to see the Bay or get to it.

Will we sit back and watch as the same thing happens to the North Embarcadero? What is being proposed makes us wonder if the State Lands Commission is truly the guardian of these valuable public lands. We have to question: where is the space for the public, tourists, downtown residents and workers? Many cities have respected the interplay of land and water and created great waterfronts that have been economic engines and developed wonderful public spaces that have put them on the map worldwide!

“We Get Letters”

On behalf of the Hillcrest Town Council, I want to send a special thank you to Betty Weinberger and the League of Women Voters for their professionalism in conducting our Candidate Forum this past week. No candidate had an unfair advantage or disadvantage with the model that you used for responding to the community’s questions. Many people have expressed that they have a much better understanding of the candidates and their positions. We certainly hope that the LWV will be available for any future candidate forums that the Hillcrest Town Council sponsors.

Warm Regards,
John Taylor, HTC Steering Committee

Make Democracy Work

Who are we? We are the League of Women Voters, an organization of women and men who want to make a difference in the political future of our country. We are a diverse, non-partisan, political group with a long-standing tradition of educating voters.

Lunch with League:

“Our Waterfront --- San Diego’s Jewel on the Bay or another Miami Beach?”

Mail check to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., # 104, San Diego 92117.

Questions: 619-857-1807.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Guest(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$20 per person) Donations: \$ _____

San Diego Unified School District Seeks New Superintendent

The Education Committee of the League was asked by the Board of Education to make recommendations on qualifications for a new Superintendent of Schools. We considered the recommendations submitted for the selection of the last Superintendent, and revised them. Our recommendations:

1. The candidate should be passionate about keeping the best interests of students firmly in mind at all times.
2. The candidate should have excellent personal leadership and communication skills.
3. The candidate should have proven ability to work in a spirit of collegiality with Board Members in order to realize the goal of reaching consensus.
4. The candidate should create an open environment with teachers to encourage innovation in instructional techniques and disseminate them widely.
5. The candidate should have proven ability to work with District personnel and their leaders.
6. The candidate should understand that it is the Board which determines policy. The Superintendent's responsibilities are to research and objectively present facts and opinions in a timely fashion for the Board to consider. After the Board votes on an option, it is the Superintendent's responsibility to insure implementation of the Board's decision.
7. The candidate should have career experience as an educational leader and administrator and have knowledge of the role of teachers, counselors, and administrators.
8. The candidate should be well-versed in California Education laws and the politics behind them.
9. The Final candidates should be thoroughly evaluated by an outside agency as to job performance and verification of ability to work with key stakeholder groups including and not limited to parents/guardians, students, and community organizations.

Frances Venn and Ruberta Castro attended the Board of Education meeting on Saturday, October 20, and presented these recommendations before the Board and distributed copies. The Board also met with groups of parents and community members and asked for their input. The Board indicated that the decision will be made by January. They will either choose a new or an interim Superintendent .

--- Frances Venn & Ruberta Castro,
Education Committee

Visit Your United Nations?

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women convenes its annual session, the 52nd, from February 25 - March 8, 2008. The theme will be "financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women." Also to be evaluated is the agreed-on conclusion on women's equal participation in "peace building, peace keeping, conflict prevention." If you are interested in being a member of the San Diego United Nations Association delegation to the U.N. next February, please let me know. Being a delegate entitles you to observe governmental delegates during their deliberations, meet LWWUS official U.N. observers, and attend hundreds of workshops and panel presentations by experts worldwide—all free. Your financial outlay involves airfare, hotel expenses (shared suites), theatre, receptions, and food. Contact me ahoiberg@aol.com

Anne Hoiberg, Co-chair,
International Relations Committee
619-223-8074

Scouting for Homeowners Association Elections

Now that we have a trained cadre of people to oversee Homeowners Association elections, please consider talking to your group to see if they would like to hire the League to set-up and supervise their elections and then count the ballots. According to a new state law, all CC&R's and Homeowners Organizations, no matter what their size, must have an independent person or group running their elections for bylaw changes, officers, rule changes, assessments, etc. The management company is not independent, **but the League is**. Please contact Linn Hairston, 858-292-9002 for further information. We'd love to have you drum up some business for us!

November Unit Meetings: Immigration Consensus

Monday, Nov. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Tuesday, Nov. 13 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Nov. 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	The new North University City Community Library, corner of Nobel and Judicial Drives Note New Location	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, Nov. 14 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wednesday, Nov. 14 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Wednesday, Nov. 14 5:30 – 7:30 PM Note Change of Date!	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (next to IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Thursday, Nov. 15 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	Home of Barbara Evje 8767 Blue Lake Drive San Diego, CA 92119	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — November

November			
11/6	Tues	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/8	Thurs	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
11/9	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/11	Sun		<i>Veterans Day</i>
11/14	Wed	12:30pm	Education Committee
11/12 to 15			UNITS - IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS
11/22			<i>Thanksgiving</i>
11/28	Wed.	11:30 a.m.	Lunch with League: “Our Waterfront” , Tom Ham’s
11/29	Thurs	6:00 p.m.	ILO General Meeting—Immigration & Population , University Town Center Community Room
11/30	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
December			
12/7	Fri.	11:30 a.m.	Program Committee, Shirley Larson’s home 5086 Constitution Road, San Diego, CA 92117
12/9	Sun.	11:30a.m.	Holiday Party — University of San Diego Institute for Peace and Justice
12/12	Wed.	12:30p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
12/19	Wed.	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office

Will We Really have Less Water Next Year?

Don Wood, Water and Energy Chair of C3 and LWV member, authored this article which provides insight into San Diego's water woes. (Note: It was written before the water-intensive firestorms.)

In response to lawsuits by other southwestern states and the federal government in 2003, California agreed to stop taking more water than it has legal rights to from the Colorado River. This was only after the U.S. Interior Department stepped in and shut down the Lake Havasu pumps that feed Colorado River water into the Metropolitan Water District (MWD's) Colorado Aqueduct, cutting our Colorado River water imports by 15%. Until 2003, California had taken far more than its legal share of Colorado River water, because other states like Arizona and Nevada had not developed their own water distribution systems. With the growth of areas like Phoenix and Las Vegas, the jig was finally up and Southern California was forced to reduce its take from the Colorado. So it turned north.

That same year, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), encouraged by the large Southern California water agencies, increased the amount of water pumped south from its giant Harvey Banks pumping plant at the southern end of the Sacramento River delta. DWR has been pumping water south from the delta at an ever-increasing rate, from about 1.4 million acre-feet a year in the 1970s to today's 6 million acre-feet a year. MWD receives 60% of its imported water supplies from the delta.

It has increased its reservoir and groundwater storage capacity, and today has more than 800 billion gallons of water in reserve, enough to get Southern California through one year, even if outside supplies are cut.

The tremendous increase in pumping has had devastating impacts on the delta's ecosystem. Several major environmental groups, along with fishing and farm advocacy groups, have sued DWR in federal and state courts for not obtaining required permits before it increased delta pumping. Last June, DWR was forced by a federal court to shut down the pumps for nine days, to avoid driving the Delta

Smelt to extinction. In August a federal judge issued a preliminary ruling that DWR must cut its pumping significantly in the future.

In the meantime, the courts are deciding how much the delta pumps can run next year. According to DWR Director Lester Snow, this cutback could amount to 37 % of the water currently being pumped from the delta. If adopted, this will be the largest court-ordered reduction of water transfers in California's history. Most of the pumping reductions will take place from December to June of each year.

For San Diego County, water supply cutbacks could eventually be even greater. Today, San Diego County imports 85 percent of its water supplies. This year, San Diego is counting on receiving 288,580 acre-feet of water from the delta via MWD. That's 39% of our total water imports of 748,000 acre-feet. MWD has traditionally supplied San Diego County with more than our legally allowed share of imported water, and has the legal right to cut our region's supply back to our legally mandated maximum allocation before it does anything else.

In 2004, we received 25% of MWD's water. San Diego only has legal water rights to 15.8% of the water MWD imports each year. A few years ago, the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) sued MWD to increase its legal water rights and lost. If San Diego County is limited to its legal rights, CWA could lose 40% of its current MWD water supplies, even before absorbing its share of any additional cuts due to reduced delta pumping.

This prospect is exacerbated by the fact that we use more water here than in other areas of Southern California. In Long Beach, the average household uses 121 gallons of water a day, in Los Angeles, they use 141 gallons a day. In San Diego County, the average household uses 173 gallons per day.

Thank you, Don, for insight into San Diego's water crisis. Recycled water and the desalination plant will be discussed next month.

Jill Elsner, Chair, Natural Resources

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

League of Women Voters of San Diego					
Proposed VS Actual Budget					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007					
The following is a brief version of the year-end financial statements. A complete version is on file.					
INCOME			EXPENSES		
	PROPOSED	ACTUAL		PROPOSED	ACTUAL
ADMINISTRATION	3,278.00	16,675.74	ADMINISTRATION	34,225.00	34,915.02
ADVOCACY:SD,CA,US			ADVOCACY:SD,CA,US	100.00	
STUDY/CITIZENS INFO	2,000.00	7,070.00	STUDY/CITIZENS INFO	2,800.00	6,137.32
DEVELOPMENT	39,000.00	19,596.78	DEVELOPMENT	13,800.00	6,239.81
MEMBERSHIP	27,539.13	25,457.60	MEMBERSHIP	18,810.75	19,610.69
NEWSLETTER- VOTER	1,318.62	104.00	NEWSLETTER- VOTER	3,800.00	2,991.28
VOTER SERVICE	650.00	990.00	VOTER SERVICE	250.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL INCOME	\$73,785.75	\$69,894.12	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSE	\$73,785.75	\$69,894.12
Total Interest Income from Investments			\$3,868.23		
Education Fund Income and Expenses					
Beginning Education Fund Balance: 7/1/06				\$8,773.53	
Education Fund Income				7,565.00	
Education Fund Expenditures					
LWVCA PMP				(1,981.00)	
Pro's & Cons				(646.50)	
Smart Voter Bookmarks				(160.00)	
Transfer of funds to savings account				(8,700.00)	for FYE 2005/2006
Transfer of funds to checking account				(4,000.00)	
Education Fund Ending Balance				\$851.03	
Bank Accounts Balances at 6/30/2007					
Checking account		\$192.00			
Investments		99,890.01			
Ed. Fund		851.03			
Total		\$100,933.04			

“The Pledge” from the Women's Conference

Beryl Flom attended Governor Schwarzenegger's Women's Conference in Long Beach, October 22-23. Among other gems gleaned there, she has brought us The Pledge:

- 1) I pledge to "show up" in my life as myself, not as an imitation of anyone else.
- 2) I pledge to avoid using the word "just" to describe myself.
- 3) I pledge to give myself ten minutes of stillness every day to get in touch with my heart and hear my own voice.
- 4) I pledge to use my voice to connect my dreams to my actions.
- 5) I pledge to use my voice to empower myself and others.
- 6) I pledge to serve my community at least once a year in a way that will benefit other women.
- 7) I pledge to ask myself, "Who am I?" "What do I believe in?" "What do I want my life to stand for?"
- 8) I pledge to sit down and write my own mission statement.
- 9) I pledge to live my own legacy. and I pledge to pass it on.



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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

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