



# San Diego VOTER

Vol. 73 No. 1

January 2009

## January Units: Let's Listen To Teachers

For the past several years, the LWVSD has had excellent luncheon meetings listening to school administrators, legislators, and college professors. The Education Committee decided that this year we needed to listen to some teachers. What is life really like in the classrooms where San Diego students learn? How have the budget cuts and uncertainty of budget figures until late October affected learning and teaching throughout the City Schools this fall?

Richard Schere, psychologist and college professor, interviewed three SDCS teachers who teach at different grade levels and in different school settings. The interview was made into a DVD by the La Jolla High School technology department. It will be shown at Unit meetings in January as preparation for our February Luncheon with the current San Diego City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Terry Grier.

Bring a pencil and tablet to your Unit meeting in January so you can write questions and comments that you would like to have presented to Dr. Grier before the luncheon meeting. Your Unit chair will collect your suggestions and send them to the Education Committee. The committee will choose those to be given to Dr. Grier before the luncheon to help him understand what education issues are of greatest interest to us.

---Beryl Flom, Program Co-Chair

### Save the date

#### Superintendent of Schools will speak February 23

Dr. Terry Grier, the new Superintendent for San Diego Unified School District, will be the luncheon speaker on Monday, February 23rd at 11:30 A.M. at Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant on Harbor Island. Feel free to invite your friends and the public. Questions developed at the January Unit meetings will be posed to Dr. Grier.

---Beryl Flom, Program Co-Chair

### Vital Program Planning Coming Up!

Units next month will be doing Program Planning for the Local and State levels of League. In order to discuss it at Unit meetings, it helps to have the same suggestions presented to each Unit. Please contact Beryl Flom with your ideas by January 10th. You may want to do a new study, update a position, or emphasize (Unit meetings, action, luncheon, tour) a topic on which we already have a position. You may email Beryl at [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net) or mail it to 1577 Vista Claridad, La Jolla, CA 92037.

---Beryl Flom, Program Co-Chair

***Leaguers, get out your pencils. . . there are a lot of events in this issue that you'll want to remember . . . and attend!!***

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June 2008 - July 2009  
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**Letter from Co-President Anne Hoiberg**

What a year! Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to the betterment of our community and country. We survived an incredibly busy year and had the strength to celebrate at our Holiday Party with a toast to a successful 2008 and to an even more successful 2009. And, thanks to all of you who contributed to the sumptuous Holiday Party buffet—and to the purchasing of tickets for the "money tree." Betty Weinberger's beautiful basket of goodies certainly contributed to a lively auction and funds to cover the expenses of the party. Thank you, Betty. And, thanks to all the good elves: Beryl, Jeanne, Peggy, Peg, Jody, Norma, Catherine, Faye, Genoveva, Jose, and Jonathan. Who else pitched in to serve and clean up? Thanks to you, too.

In August, we learned that our League was selected to be the recipient of two grants: one for \$500 to present a program to celebrate U.S. Constitution Day (September 17) and the other for \$9,000 from American Express to "help America vote." With no major financial constraints thanks to American Express we were able to accept all invitations to conduct forums, indulge in photocopied print-outs, print thousands of voting materials, present Prop.Talks—and discuss ideas for future endeavors to help America vote with the remaining American Express funds. Those discussions brought forth several plans to enter the 21st Century through an expansion of our Web site and the production of professionally designed DVDs and Power Point presentations for the Speakers Bureau. Not only will our work be more readily received, but our image in the community will also be enhanced.

LWVSD also cosponsored several events to commemorate the *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence* (November 25 – December 10): a tour of the San Diego Justice Center and one to a one-stop shop to provide help and services to victims of domestic violence; a panel discussion on *A Culture of Violence? Encouraging a Dialogue between Men & Women*; and a Human Rights Day program, *The Highest Aspiration: Looking Ahead on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, that began with an appearance of "Eleanor Roosevelt," who headed the U.N.'s Human Rights Commission that led to the creation and subsequent adoption of the UDHR on December 10, 1948. Following Eleanor's performance, three panelists discussed the importance of this universally accepted document and its major human rights treaties.

At the close of each year, my thoughts always turn to peace: how to achieve it and when. With hope, I echo the chants from the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, "Another World is Possible, Another World is Possible — a world without war, a world of peace and justice. The time is now. Shall we begin?"

---Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

*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.*

## A Thank You Note From Our League President to all of us!

A quick note of thanks to everyone who had a hand in making last month's Holiday Party such a warm, lively, and delicious event. It was a wonderful party. We talked with old League friends, we made new ones, we ate, we sang, we ate some more. Next year we'll dance!

I also want to let you know how gratifying it was to get such a great response to our request for donated items for the young military families stationed at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. I was very touched by how thoughtful and practical you all were in what you chose to donate – necessities like disposable diapers and baby shampoo, new and hardly-used children's clothing, towels, special cooking gadgets that I'd love to have in my own kitchen, personal niceties like skin lotions, healthy choices of canned foods (low fat! organic!), new stuffed animals for littlest kids, along with crayons, puzzles, whistles, and little writing pads for the older ones, and more.

These donations were another reminder of the public-spirited generosity and personal involvement that typify San Diego's League of Women Voters. I continue to be proud to be working alongside all of you.

---Norma Damashek, Co-President

## Update from the Update Committee

In 2004, the citizens of San Diego voted to try a new city government structure. The form of city government would change for a trial period of five years from a Council-Manager (City Manager) form of government to a "strong mayor" (Mayor-Council) form of government.

Since our current League position on city government addresses issues related to a Council-Manager (City Manager) form of government, it was determined at the League convention this past June, that we should consider an update to our position.

The Update Committee has been working on this project since July. The scope has been to examine our positions on the Mayor, the City Council, and determining whether a position should be included regarding the Chief Administrative Officer who manages day-by-day operations for the Mayor. This office is called Chief Operating Officer by the current administration.

Background material on these three areas of city government will be presented at the March units and consensus will be sought on updating the current positions.

We urge members to continue to follow the activities of the Mayor, the City Council and the Chief Operating Officer in preparation for the discussion and consensus in March. Study materials will be available in a future issue of *The Voter*.

---Mary Jean Word, Update Chair

## Here's a profitable Resolution for the New Year ---for you and for us!

As you know, volunteer work can take a lot of time. Here's the good news. We aren't asking for your time unless you have it to give.

We do, however, appreciate you as a member. When you have time, we'd like to have you come to a committee meeting or attend one of our many events. You may be pleasantly surprised and decide you'd like to take part in the organization. Don't forget--for every activity there are large or small jobs waiting.

If you could lend us a few hours per month, it would be much appreciated. To get involved, please contact me.

---Jeanne Brown, V.P. Administration,  
[jhisten@cox.net](mailto:jhisten@cox.net), 619-224-1807.

## Membership

Currently the LWVSD has 500 members!

Please welcome these new members.

NAME	ZIP
Frances D. Bumpas	92174
Arlene Gilbert	92118
Lori Hollis	92071

## “Storybank”

**Another in our series of League reminiscences that might inspire you and your friends to devote more of your life to the League of Women Voters. This month we hear from Frances Venn.**

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Fifty-eight years ago, shortly after I gave birth to my first child, I joined the League of Women Voters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I had read a newspaper story about Korean children digging through garbage to find something to eat. I realized that no matter what good care I gave my infant son, unless I did whatever I could to improve conditions in the world, he like his World War II veteran Father, and his World War I veteran Grandfather could find himself gun fodder in some new slaughter imagined by old men.

When the United Nations was established in San Francisco, I was a student at Stanford in Palo Alto. I had become impressed with the work that the League of Women Voters did to help bring the UN into existence. I decided the League was the best place for me to carry out my intention to do my part to help bring about peace and justice in our world.

After we moved to San Diego, I joined the San Diego LWV and became a board member for several terms carrying the foreign policy portfolio. Then we moved into our first home in El Cajon, a town near San Diego. My next door neighbor had been a member of the same San Diego LWV unit to which I had belonged. We decided El Cajon needed an LWV so we put our babies in their carriages and began touring our new neighborhood looking for women interested in joining the LWV. As one of our first members said, the young mothers in our area were looking for a way to escape "diapers, dishes, and douches". She was very shy when she first joined the League, but she blossomed into becoming State LWV President and then went on to become Mayor of El Cajon. That's what LWV training can do for you and your city!

We moved for 18 months to New York City so my husband could study for his doctorate. My dream was that I could work for the League at the United Nations. Lo and behold, my second cousin who lived in New York City was an active League member. Next thing I knew, I was an NGO representing the League at the UN. Each week all the NGOs were given a briefing by our ambassador to the UN, Eleanor Roosevelt. What an experience!

Then the New York City LWV trade chairman resigned. It was during a hot-and-heavy trade policy legislative year in Congress, and trade is extremely important to New York City. I found myself pushed into becoming the NYC LWV Trade Chairman, planning unit meetings and public events for 200 units. I was even on the Today show with Dave Garroway representing the LWV.

When we returned home, we moved back into San Diego. I re-entered my profession as a teacher, and ultimately became an elementary school Principal. I continued contributing to the LWV, but no longer had time to attend meetings. Nevertheless, the skills I had learned as a LWV member stood me in good stead when I became President of the San Diego City Schools Administrators Association.

After I retired, I joined the San Diego LWVSD board again and chaired a study of the student services provided by the San Diego City Schools. That led to becoming a member of the LWVC Education Update Study. My focus for two years of research was on the state governance of education in California.

Well, it's time to get ready to go to my unit's meeting on the pros and cons of this June election. I take a carload of my nearby retirees. The League is still one of my favorite activities, particularly because of the interesting members that belong to it.

I THANK THE LWV FOR ALL THAT I HAVE GAINED BY BEING A MEMBER OF IT FOR 58 YEARS.

---Frances Venn

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**Did you enjoy reading Frances' reflections of the importance of the League in her life? I certainly did! What part has the League played in yours? Please share your reflections with us by sending your "Storybank" to the Voter editor at [frOSE@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:frOSE@mail.sdsu.edu). We'll be looking for it.**

**---Jeanne Brown, VP/Administration**

## January Unit Meetings: Video of Interviews with Classroom Teachers!

Saturday, Jan. 10 10:00 - 12:00 PM	Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Vergie Wright (619) 264-6735
Monday, Jan. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Rm. 2nd Fl. 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Drive San Diego, CA 92128	Bev Wilson (858) 592-9664 Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, Jan. 12 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Coronado Unit <b>New Unit!</b>	Nancy Cuddy's home 870 Country Club Lane Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy (619) 437-4597
Monday, Jan. 12 5:30 - 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (near IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, Jan. 13 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Sherry Bloom 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Wednesday, Jan. 14 9:30 - 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma <b>Note Change</b>	Gloria Christman's home 3279 Atari Court San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3233 Gloria Christman (858) 273-0590
Wednesday, Jan. 14 1:00 - 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Mariette Kobrak (858) 450-1521 Mary McDonald (619) 542-1438
Wednesday, Jan. 14 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta <b>Note Change</b>	Barbara Moore's home 5868 Antigua Street San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Jan. 15 9:30 - 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje (619) 462-4772

## LWVSD Calendar — January

January			
1/1	Thurs.		<i>New Year's Day</i>
1/5	Mon.	9:30 am	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
1/6	Tues.	6:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/8	Thurs.	9:30 am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
1/9	Fri.	10:30 am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
Jan. 12-17			<b>UNITS - Video of Interviews with Classroom Teachers</b>
1/19			<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>
1/19	Mon.	10:00 am	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/21	Wed.	11:00 am	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/23	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/23	Fri.	Noon	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
1/27	Tues.	9:00am	<b>Bus Tour: "Solid Waste Facilities"</b> , see flyer enclosed.

## Speakers Bureau Report

(Election day November 4, 2008)

The Speakers Bureau, as usual, was busy, seemingly even busier than usual. Maybe this was because the season started so early with propositions being discussed at the September units. The 12 State propositions and five local ones were very complex, and difficult to understand and evaluate. Thank goodness for the good State ballot pamphlet, the very good information written by the LWVC, and the "Easy Voter Guide". Even with all this help, each speaker probably spent 20 to 40 hours studying and organizing the materials.

Our speakers gave Prop Talks to 94 groups including the LWV units, and reached 2420 people directly. The number of talks given by one speaker varied between two and 16 – can you imagine, 16?! First prize blue ribbon to the "regulars": Debbie Blum, Irene Dunny, Barbara Evje, Amie Garapich, Anne Hoiberg (in addition to serving as vice-president of LWVSD!), Mariette Kobrak, Alice McCauley, Betty Schulman, Joyce Tavrow, Betty Weinberger (in addition to organizing the forums!), and me. Also, three speakers spoke to one or two groups. Thanks to Paula Hurst, Faye Rose, and LaQuita Robbins.

The Speakers Bureau spent much of November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> answering questions about the election on the phones at Channel 10, which was fun and challenging. Several non-speakers also helped with this. Our thanks to Margrit Spear, Susanne Morse, and David Liy.

Congratulations to Jeanne Brown and all her workers for helping to pass Prop 11 for redistricting! We Leaguers have had an effect! Now, we should all push for initiative reform – these ballots and propositions are appalling! My own preference would be to forbid paid signature gathering.

Giving Prop Talks is addicting, and the women involved are super! Let's keep the momentum going among the young people. Join us for the next election!

---Margaret Stevenson, Speaker Bureau Chair

## California Prisons – A Possible League Study?

The California prison system is now costing more than higher education in this state! More than half of paroled felons released from prison for the first time return within two years. Our leaders refuse to spend the money on rehab because it is too expensive. Is it?

Any one entering prison has to have gang protection and probably has to affiliate with one to survive. How does this help the gang problem?

Inmate characteristics include 41% Latino, 31 % white and 23 % black. Is the drug war driving the problem? Is it the guards or medical personnel? Is it the sentencing? Is it the lack of rehabilitation that causes the high recidivism rate?

All of these questions are fueling the drive by Los Angeles LWV to request that we have a state-wide study to determine what can be done to "fix" our prison system. They plan to bring this up at the State Convention in May. We need to know if there are members who will help with this if we vote for it. This, like immigration, is a complex issue that has vested interests on both sides. The League is uniquely positioned to study it, due to our reputation for integrity.

I know there are people out there who are concerned about our prison systems, who have knowledge that would be useful to a League study, who have a desire to change the downward spiral that our prisons are in and that is dragging our state's children and budget with it. We need to hear from you. We want to support the L.A. League in their quest to have this study. But we want to know that there are members who are willing to help. If you are interested in working on this important issue, please contact me.

---Jeanne Brown, Vice-President, Administration, [jhisten@cox.net](mailto:jhisten@cox.net), 619-224-1807.

# COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

invites you to the annual  
**Roe v. Wade Celebration!**

*“We recognize the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child. That right necessarily includes the right of a woman to decide whether or not to terminate her pregnancy.”*

U.S. Supreme Court, January 22, 1973

**Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009**

**Handlery Hotel and Resort**

**950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego**

**No-Host Cocktails & Silent Auction 6:00 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm**

\$60 in advance / \$70 if postmarked after January 16

## **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Edelin**

Boston University Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology

National Medical Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award

2008 Margaret Sanger award, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Author, Broken Justice: A True Story of Race, Sex and Revenge in a Boston Courtroom

Broken Justice tells the true story of a young, black doctor who arrived in Boston in 1971 to complete his residency in obstetrics and gynecology. In 1974, he was indicted for manslaughter in the death of a fetus during a legal abortion, charged by a zealous anti-abortion prosecutor seeking to challenge the legal underpinnings of Roe v. Wade.

Dr. Edelin is currently touring the country, speaking to gatherings large and small to emphasize the importance of protecting a woman’s right to choose, which is being threatened in virtually every state of the union. Dr. Edelin will speak to the new realities women are likely to face during the Obama administration and the likelihood of changes in the federal judiciary and on the U.S. Supreme Court.

## **2009 Defender of Choice Award Recipient- Dorene Sulzer**

**Dorene has worked for years on the choice issue. She chairs the Reproductive Rights committee for the UU Church and was the past co-chair of the CRC.**

Proceeds for this event benefit the **Make a Difference Fund**, which provides funds for reproductive health services for women who are unable to pay for such services.

To reserve a seat at the **League of Women Voters tables**, please **mail** the form below, with your **check, payable to “CRC”** Coalition for Reproductive Choice to:

**Rebecca Booth, LWV-CRC Rep.  
4967 Lillian St., San Diego, CA 92110-1542**

Coalition for Reproductive Choice Chair: Linda Cianciolo--Info: Rebecca 619 276-5741

I (We) would like to attend the 36th Anniversary Celebration of Roe v. Wade at the LWV tables

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TICKETS: Postmarked before 1-16 at \$60 each # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Postmarked after 1-17 at \$70 each # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax-Deductible Donation (to MAD Fund)-----= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CHECK = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

We cannot guarantee unreserved seats for late arrivals.  Mediterranean Chicken or  Vegetarian Meal



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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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### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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