



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 70 No. 9

November 2006

A Message from our New President



It is my honor and privilege to be president of the League of Women Voters of San Diego. The quality of work and the services League member volunteers provide to the community is immense and outstanding, and I feel now is the time that our community knows more about it.

That is why as president I will be focusing on promoting the work of the League and educating the public about what we do and why it is valuable. Often I get the feeling that we do not toot our own horns enough *or* really appreciate the work we do. I believe it is time to start doing it.

A little bit about where I'm coming from: I have 10 years of professional public speaking and community outreach experience, and four years' marketing and writing experience including media events, ad campaigns, brochures, etc. Currently I also serve as vice president of outreach for the Women's History Museum and Educational Center located in Golden Hill. On a more personal note, I love the arts, am a poet of 15 years and adore fashion.

I look forward very much to using my skills and abilities to benefit the League, and thank all of you for your support. I can not wait to see what we will accomplish this year!

Sarah Hurd

Holiday Party Silent Auction

Please drop off or mail any donations or gift certificates for the Holiday Party Silent Auction at the League office before Thanksgiving.

You can also bring items to your Unit meeting. Letters and forms for soliciting gifts can be obtained at Unit meetings or by calling the office. Directions to League Office, page 4.

Beryl Flom, 858-459-4406
edflom@sbcglobal.net or 312-218-6444

November Unit Meetings: Global Warming

We will be exploring Global Warming:

- **what it is**
- **its effect on our planet, especially in the last 20 years**
- **how it is having a profound negative effect on our ecosystem**
- **what will happen if no action is taken immediately .**

We will then discuss (via an easy-to-follow and practical checklist) what we can all do to alleviate Global Warming. What's encouraging is how many measures can be simply implemented through our own efforts without much additional outlay.

If you are interested in helping plan for this Unit meeting or have ideas, please call or email me.

Jill Elsner, jill@jillelsner.com
858-274-2475 (H) or 858-695-6660 (O)

Leadership Change

On October 8th, Linda Scott submitted her resignation as president of the League of Women Voters of San Diego. She found it was too difficult to manage her work, the League and her life, and felt bad that she could not provide more leadership. The Board regrettably accepted her decision and held an emergency meeting to redefine duties. Sarah Hurd volunteered to be the president of record.

The Executive Committee will now meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the League office and the Board will meet as usual at 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the League office.

Be sure to see page 4 for another in our popular Lunch with League series!

League of Women Voters 2006-07 Board of Directors

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San Diego Voter

Administrative Assistant Genoveva Lopez
Flexible hours — (call ahead please)
Phone: (858) 483-8696 FAX: (858) 483-8396

Email: lwvsd@san.rr.com
Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
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Voters of San Diego for advocacy and administrative
work, or to the tax-deductible League of Women
Voters of San Diego Education Fund for voter service
and educational activities.

For information, contact the League office at
(858) 483-8696.

Public Policy Committee Working on Multiple Fronts

The LWVSD is one of the signators of the opposition statement on the "managed competition" ballot measure, Proposition C. This board decision, made after months of discussion by the Committee, is supported by our position on the Civil Service System. Committee Chair Norma Damashek has been kept busy publicizing the League position to the press and general public. She was a panelist at the Downtown Partnership luncheon with Donald Cohen from the Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI), debating Carl DeMaio from the Performance Institute and Councilman Kevin Faulconer.

She was also a panelist at the Catfish Club, presenting the opposition perspective against Mayor Jerry Sanders. Prop C proponents are intent on characterizing Prop C as a battle between the forces of reform and the city unions. While the League questions dismantling the Civil Service System and the real threat of increased corruption, the press has generally ignored the loss of its merit-based, equal opportunity protections. The press has also avoided a good analysis of the many failures of managed competition in other cities, which Norma also disclosed. Her Op-Ed statement appeared in the Union-Tribune on 10/20/06.

Kathleen MacLeod gave testimony at the City Council/Redevelopment Agency concerning budget accuracy and transparency, specifically regarding the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). Kathleen's expertise in county budgeting is very helpful to the Public Policy Committee.

In January, Mike Jenkins from the Committee will be presenting Units on Redevelopment 101. He, too, brings a lot of expertise to this committee, which meets on the 4th Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the League office --- come listen and learn!

Please call the office (858) 483-8696 for information about the next meeting.

November Unit Meetings – Global Warming

Monday, Nov 13 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 Ethel Palmer 858-675-0590
Monday, Nov 13 5:30 – 7:30 PM	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
Tuesday, Nov 14 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 14 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of June Reardon 6028 Dirac Street San Diego, CA 92122	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Nov 15 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Nov 15 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. Nov 16 9:30 – 11:30	East San Diego	Home of Hadarah Chemnick 5641 Ashland Ave San Diego, CA 92120	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

Be sure to see your Holiday Party invitation enclosed!

LWVSD Calendar — November

3	9:30 a.m.	Fri.	LWVSD Program Comm., Shirley Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd., 92117
3	10:30 a.m..	Fri.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
6	6:00 p.m.		LWVSD Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
7		Mon.	General Election
9	9:30 a.m.	Thurs	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
11			Veterans Day
11/13-16			UNITS - Global Warming
15	10:00 a.m.	Wed	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office - porch on street side of building
	12:30 a.m.	Wed	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
17	9:30 a.m.	Fri.	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
21	6:30p.m.	Tues.	Executive Committee, LWVSD Office
23		Thur.	Thanksgiving
28	11:30a.m.	Tues.	What's Happening to Nuclear Energy in San Diego? Peking Palace Restaurant, 4305 La Jolla Village Drive, 92122
Dec 11		Mon.	Voter deadline for January issue (Note date change)

Volunteers Needed to Answer Election Calls at Office Oct. 30 - Nov. 7

Why not sign up for a 2 or 3-hour shift? Bring a book, Christmas cards, whatever, for the quiet times.
Sign up with Jeanne Brown at (619) 224-1807 or jhisten@cox.net.

Please welcome the following new members;

Betty Berg	92037
Viola Fryman	92037
William Hawkins	92037
Ann Porter	92119
Carole Spencer	92604
Joan I. Stroh	92103

Directions to League Office:

The League office is located at 4901 Morena Blvd., Suite 104, 92117 (it's the only two-story building in the office complex at the very north end of Morena.) Call before you come (858-483-8696) to be sure someone is there to let you in.

Another in our popular series of Luncheon Meetings

“Lunch With League”

What’s Happening to Nuclear Energy In San Diego?

Tuesday, November 28, 11:30a.m.

Peking Palace Restaurant, 4305 La Jolla Village Dr.

(Enter UTC parking off Genesee, drive to end toward La Jolla Village Dr.)

\$20 per person

Panelists:

Jim Avery, Senior Vice President/Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric

Rochelle Becker, Executive Officer, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Ray Golden, Manager, Communications, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

Topics:

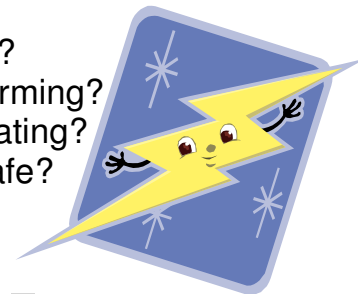
Does SDG&E depend on SONGS now and in the future?

Does the production of nuclear energy contribute to global warming?

How long is SONGS licensed and does it need repair or updating?

How is nuclear waste stored in San Diego County & is it safe?

A question and answer period will follow.



Reservations are due by November 20 – The public is welcome – Seating is limited

Mail to: League of Women Voters of S.D., 4901 Morena Blvd., Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117

LWV Office: (858)483-8696

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ No. People @ \$20 EACH _____

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.

Nuclear Waste In San Diego County

This article provides good background for the Lunch with League on November 28. Shirley Vaine, a LWVSD member, who serves on the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility in San Diego, and Beryl Flom wrote this article to share their concerns with our members.

At our state capital, San Diego County is referred to as a "Reactor Community" because of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) south of San Clemente on Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. It generates about 16% of SDG&E's electricity and about the same for Orange County. The SONGS nuclear plant produces 105 tons of radioactive waste each year. Our government was to haul the waste away 10 or 15 years ago, but there is no place to take it, so more than likely the waste will remain here in San Diego even after the plant stops making electricity.

There are four active nuclear power plants left in our state, all in southern California – two at San Onofre and two at Diablo Canyon/San Luis Obispo. Others have been shut down for various reasons, leaving radioactive waste in the form of spent fuel rods stored on their sites. The fuel rods at SONGS are in overcrowded cooling pools. If the water were to leak out of the cooling pools by earthquake, terrorist attack, or some other natural disaster, a fire would ignite that would be extremely dangerous and difficult to extinguish. The poisonous smoke would contaminate everything --- our food, water, beaches, businesses, property and people would all be damaged. The smoke could travel 500 miles or wherever the wind currents wandered. SONGS also sits near an earthquake fault line.

A Federal law called the Price Anderson Act is insurance for the utility companies that limits their liability in case of a nuclear accident, but there is no insurance for us, the homeowners, if there is a "radioactive" accident. This Federal law abolishes everyone's property rights to protect the rights of the nuclear utility companies.

Recently the California Public Utilities Commission approved a plan for Southern California Edison, who owns 80% of SONGS, to cut two holes in the two concrete domes at SONGS to replace the steam generators, which were not designed to be replaced, and to cut tension wires in the concrete dome, which were not to be disturbed. This has never been tried before on an active nuclear plant.

No one really knows if it can be done. SONGS would need to be closed while they do the work, one reactor at a time. SONGS could get re-licensed and operate for 30 more years, adding many more spent fuel rods to the pond.

There are some new technologies being developed for storing spent fuel. It can be "re-racked" and stored in ceramic pellets or it can be put in dry-cask storage. Both of these methods are considered more secure than spent fuel pools, but no one knows how long they will last. Nuclear waste can also be transported off-site, although that has its dangers. It looks as though the plan to have a national repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada is going to continue to have legal challenges and be delayed.

In the summer of 2005, the California Energy Commission (CEC) held a two-day conference regarding nuclear waste in our state. It concluded in its 2005 report to the governor that nuclear energy should not be in California's future. They recommended a "Risk vs. Benefit" study of the long term implications associated with the accumulation of spent fuel at California nuclear power plants. The study will include seismic risk, public safety and ratepayers' cost. This is a wonderful opportunity for San Diego to get some real facts regarding the risk and safety of our community from SONGS. From that recommendation Assembly Bill 1632 was introduced by Assemblyman Blakeslee and passed by the Assembly. The San Diego County League got the LWV of California to support this bill. It passed the both Houses and has now been signed by the governor.

On June 2, 2006, a landmark court case was won in San Luis Obispo against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 2003 findings that a terrorist attack was "remote and speculative" and therefore unnecessary to consider. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously disagreed and revoked the radioactive storage permit for Diablo Canyon. The court ruled in favor of the safety of the people on the Central Coast. This is an opportunity for San Diego since we are a reactor community, too. It may be a way to stop the monthly production of the radioactive waste. However, we need to either reduce the amount of energy we use or find another source to replace the 16% that nuclear energy provides to San Diego County.

The League of Women Voters of the United States requires that local and state Leagues work together on nuclear issues with the oversight of the LWVUS. Their position merely says that nuclear waste is a concern that must be addressed to protect the public's health and safety, as well as that of the environment. There should be limited reliance on this use of nuclear fission. Citizen participation should be part of the decision-making.

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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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