



# San Diego VOTER

*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.*

Vol. 70 No. 3

March 2006

## UNITS:

### A CRASH COURSE ON OUR NEW MAYOR/COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The March Unit meetings will concentrate on the mechanics of city government under the Mayor/Council system recently established in San Diego. We will compare it to the Council/Manager system we had prior to the adoption of Prop. F in 2005 and identify new positions of authority in the administration of Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Members of the Public Policy Committee will present the information to the Units. Unit members should look at the League's position supporting Council/Manager government and recall the reasons behind it, so we can analyze whether the strengths of that system are still embodied in the new system.

The charter changes enacted by Prop F establishing a Mayor/Council system require reconfirmation by voters before 2010. Even before that deadline, it seems clear that voters will be confronted with several ballot propositions for charter changes. In other words, the city charter is still in flux and voters will have to remain aware and informed.

Feel free to bring your friends and neighbors. We look forward to a lively discussion.

Norma Damashek

## Voice of San Diego, Diann Shipione and Norma Damashek named Honorees for 2006 Civic Service Awards!

This year's annual Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner on Wednesday, April 19, will celebrate the work of an outstanding new media voice, a courageous whistle-blower, and a League leader.

First is the **Voice of San Diego** news website whose mission is *"to consistently deliver ground-breaking investigative journalism for the San Diego region and to increase civic participation by giving citizens the knowledge and in-depth analysis necessary to become advocates for good government and social progress."* This mission is in perfect accord with the goals of League.

The second civic service award goes to Diann Shipione, former member of San Diego's pension board. *"Her warnings of abuses in the city retirement system," said the San Diego Union-Tribune, "set in motion events that launched criminal and regulatory investigations and forced city officials to admit mistakes to Wall Street, which penalized the city with steadily eroded credit ratings."* Shipione says she doesn't now feel vindicated because *"the damage to the city is so serious and grave."* We applaud her courage when she was challenged, and her wisdom which for too long went unheeded.

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**Kay's Komments**

Put Picture here

I hope you had an opportunity to attend one of the Unit meetings in February. The focus of those meetings was on program planning at the National, County and Local level. The discussion that I attended was very lively and exciting. You will be hearing more about the outcomes of the Unit discussions.

When I first heard the words, "Program Planning", I thought that means we are going to plan a program...not so. In League lingo it means we are going to discuss/select topics to study, or identify positions we need to update, or issues we are going to emphasize. You'd never know that by the words we use...

The Port Authority tour received rave reviews and Beryl Flom is repeating the success with a trip to Tijuana. Success builds success so you will want to sign up early. Another event we have to look forward to is discussion of "The New Form of City Government" at the March Unit meetings led by members of the Public Policy Committee.

At the Board meeting last month we voted to partner with the Women's History Museum and the County Commission on the Status of Women in the Hall of Fame Dinner honoring Sally Ride. The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 at UCSD Price Center Ballroom. Check out [www.whmec.org](http://www.whmec.org) for the particulars and reservation information. (See also article in this issue.)

You also have the opportunity to sign up for the County League Day scheduled for Saturday, March 18. County Supervisor Bill Horn and artist James Hubbell are the speakers for the program.

Until next month, Kay

(continued from page 1 )

The League Leader honoree for 2006 is **Norma Damashek**, the current LWVSD Vice President for Public Policy, for her consistent League voice before the City Council, and for working tirelessly for a smooth transition into the strong mayor form of government by serving as Chair-at-Large of the Citizens' Advisory Committee. She has led the League's effort to recommend needed amendments to the City Charter and/or the Municipal Code, and to record and keep track of changes underway during the transition period.

League members may attend at the member level of \$85 per person and are encouraged to organize tables of eight. If you include non-members at your table they may attend for that price also. A program modeled after the "Full Focus" KPBS TV show is planned on the topic of "Open Government in San Diego--- Myth or Reality?" led by Gloria Penner and including a panel of insiders.

LWVSD is one of the most active local leagues in the United States. The proceeds from the dinner will help fund public policy information, education, and nonpartisan voter information. Our goal is to connect citizens with their government in a non-partisan and informative manner. The entire San Diego community recognizes the work of the League for our civic activities and support of open government.

## WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME DINNER

The first woman in space, Sally Ride is to be honored at this year's Women's Hall of Fame representing the "Spirit of the Hall of Fame." Dr. Ride is currently a physicist and member of the faculty at UCSD. She is also an author and president and CEO of Sally Ride Science. Its mission – to empower girls to explore the world of science.

The League Board voted at its February meeting to be a partner for this year's 2006 Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner March 25, 2006 at UCSD's Price Center Ballroom. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm. The event is hosted by the Women's History Museum and Educational Center, San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women, SDSU Women's Studies Department and the Women's Center, UCSD.

Reservations for the event can be made by calling 619-230-1801 or use Pay Pal at [www.whmec.org](http://www.whmec.org) Prices include dinner, induction ceremony and entertainment. Reservations are \$65, WHMEC Member \$55, and Student/Senior \$35. This is a perfect event to round out this year's Women's History Month celebration.

Kay Ragan

### LUNCH WITH LEAGUE IN ESCONDIDO

The LWV of Escondido has invited San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis to be the speaker at their luncheon on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm. It will be held at the Escondido Country Club, 1800 W. Country Club Lane, Escondido, CA 92026. Tickets are \$20 for League members and \$25 for members of the public. Checks (made out to LWV Escondido) should be mailed to LWV Escondido, P.O. Box 921, Escondido, CA 92033 by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Questions: Arlene at 760-751-1546

### Speak Out for Reproductive Freedom!

Reproductive Freedom Day will take place on Wednesday, March 29, in the Sacramento Convention Center from 9 am - 4:30 pm. Sponsored by The California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (of which LWVC is a member), the forum will include caucusing with women's health advocates from all over the state, educating our legislators, and learning about emerging issues. The cost is \$45. For information, contact [jomadigan@earthlink.net](mailto:jomadigan@earthlink.net), phone 415-346-0563.

### 29th Annual EdSource Forum: School Accountability & Funding: Can California Get It Right?

This exciting program, to include both Alan Bersin and Dr. Carl Cohn, will take place Thursday, March 16, at the Sheraton Suites Fairplex, Pomona. Cost \$60. For information, 650-917-9481, or [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org).

## Bus tour to Tijuana

On Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be an all-day bus tour to Tijuana, led by Prof. Victor Clark Alfaro who teaches at SDSU. Our schedule includes:

- a visit to a migratory crossing place (El Bordo) with an interview with officials of the Beta Group, an agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, which protects migrants
- a tour of a red-light district and meeting with the Association, Organizacion Vanguardia de Mujeres Libres Maria Magdalenas, the oldest prostitute organization in the northern Mexican border, working on health and human rights programs
- a meeting with Indian migrants (Mistecos) and a visit to their Lomas Taurinas neighborhood. Mistecos are one of the most important ethnic groups in Mexico and come from the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Puebla
- a visit to an upper class neighborhood called Chapultepec
- a meeting with Tijuana's municipal leaders to talk about some of their issues, such as public security, urban development, tourism, etc.

We will meet at the end of the trolley line in San Ysidro right at the border crossing, but on the U.S. side. Please look for the group outside of McDonald's restaurant.

You may take the trolley and I suggest the following: park at Fashion Valley, take the elevator up to the platform, get your ticket out of the machine (\$2.25 if under 65 and \$1.00 if 65 or over), and take the green line train to Old Town - no later than 8:03 am. From Old Town, transfer to the blue line to San Ysidro. You will see McDonald's when you get off at the last stop.

You may prefer to drive south on Hwy. 5 or 805. Exit at Camino de la Plaza, turn left and go over the bridge, turn right on San Ysidro Blvd., turn left right before the trolley and you will see a huge sign that says "\$5 parking". Turn left into the lot, pay \$5, park and walk down to McDonald's. Please be there no later than 9:30 a.m. When you leave, you will need to pay another \$5 for parking because we will be there so long.

At 9:30 a.m., we will walk up the ramp and across into Tijuana (a few blocks walk) and board a basic kind of bus (no bathrooms) for our tour. Lunch at Casa del Mole (<http://hungryhiker-tj.com/restaurants/mole.html>) is scheduled for 1:15 p.m., so you may want to bring a snack and/or water. You may order what you like and pay for it with U.S. dollars (about \$12-14). We finish at 6:00 p.m. and will then walk back to the U.S. The cost is \$20.00 excluding lunch. Because this is going to be such a long day, we have opened the trip up to non-Leaguers and members of other surrounding Leagues. However, the group is limited to 30 people.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Beryl Flom, 858-459-4406 or [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net). My cell phone (the day of the tour) is 312-218-6444.



### Tijuana Tour

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Others in your party \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ people x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check and reservation to LWV, 4901 Morena Blvd. #104 San Diego, CA 92117 no later than March 20.

## **“Shining the Light on Government”**

The League of Women Voters of California has asked us to join in observing "**Sunshine Week 2006**," the week of March 12-18, which fortunately happens to be the week of our Unit Meetings focusing on city government. The observance is sponsored by journalism groups, media, open-government advocates, librarians and educators across the country to stimulate public discussion about open government and why it is so important.

### **Our democracy is at risk when our right to know is in danger.**

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active citizen participation at all levels of government. To be informed, citizens must be able to obtain accurate information about their government at every level.

Once citizens have the information they need, it is their right ---and responsibility! --- to contribute to public discussion of policy. Active participation by the public in federal, state and local government requires that officials make decisions openly and provide broadly publicized, convenient opportunities for participation by the public in the process.

California has enacted a number of statutes that provide for the public's access to information:

**California Public Records Act** establishes the right of all to inspect and obtain copies of state and local government documents.

**Legislative Open Records Act** provides that the public may inspect legislative records.

**Ralph M. Brown Act** requires local legislative bodies to provide public notice of agenda and to hold meetings in an open forum.

**Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act** requires that meetings of state bodies be conducted openly and related documents be made available for inspection.

**Grunsky-Burton Open Meeting Act** requires that meetings of the Legislature be open to the public.

The California Constitution did not generally address the public's access to government information until 2004 when a constitutional amendment was passed to ensure adequate protection for these laws. Proposition 59 added to the State Constitution a constitutional right of public access to information.

**In light of today's concerns about government secrecy and threats to civil liberties, the statement Californians made by elevating this access to constitutional status is a significant one.** Armed with these tools, citizens can move forward to obtain the information they need to make informed decisions about public policy and contribute to the public debate.

### **Save The Environment**

EarthDay is coming up and one thing we want to do with our exhibit in Balboa Park on April 23<sup>rd</sup> is to give people ideas of changing what they purchase or use that would decrease our waste and/or improve our environment. **Have you seen any good products lately? Where could we get them?** Recent ideas: cloth shopping bags at Albertsons for 99 cents, #1 plastic bottles for Lancer's frozen juice instead of coated paper cans with metal lids, bed sheets made from bamboo instead of cotton which require a lot of water and pesticides to grow. Please contact Beryl Flom with your suggestions: 858-459-4406 or [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net)

Beryl Flom

### **International Women's Day**

On Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:15–8:45 am at the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, the Women's Equity Council of the UNA is celebrating Women's Day with a breakfast. The presentation will be on "Global Dispatches: Women Moving Forward - - and to the Top!" given by local "foreign correspondents" who will have just returned from the Commission on the Status of Women at the U.N. The LWV is a co-sponsor of this event. Please mail a check for \$15 (made out to the University of San Diego) to International Women's Day Breakfast, Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492. Questions: 619-260-7509 or [slyford@sandiego.edu](mailto:slyford@sandiego.edu)

## Unit Meetings for March

### “Strong Mayor – How is it Working?”

Remember, you can attend any meeting -- Pick a time and place that is convenient. If you can't make your customary unit meeting because of another appointment or a family matter, pick another one. Don't forget we have one EVENING meeting each month in a convenient centralized location: Mission Valley, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Call Nancy McCleary for directions, 619-222-9719.

Monday, March 13 9:30 -11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335 Peg Bates (858) 484-6069
Monday, March 13 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Mission Valley	First United Methodist Church 2111 Camino del Rio South Linder Hall, Room 2 San Diego, CA	Nancy McCleary (619) 222-9719 Debra Blum (619) 225-0353
Tuesday, March 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, March 14 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of Margaret Stevenson 4478 Hortensia Street. San Diego, CA 92103	LaRu DeKock (858) 455-1990 Laura Stevenson (858) 573-9734
Wed., March 15 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100 Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92109	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. March 15 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta & East San Diego (combined meeting)	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214 Barbara Evje (619) 462-4772

## LWVSD Calendar — March

March			
3	11:00 AM	Fri	ILO Board Meeting, League Office
7	6:00 PM	Tues	Board Meeting, League Office
8	7:15AM	Wed	<b>International Women's Day Breakfast, Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace &amp; Justice</b>
9	9:30 AM	Thur	Unit Council Meeting, League Office
10	9:30 AM	Fri	Nominating Committee, League Office
11	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office
3/13 to 16			<b>Units - A Crash Course on Our New Mayor/Council Form of Government</b>
17	9:30 AM	Fri	Public Policy Committee, League Office
18	8:45 AM	Sat	<b>County League Day - see flyer</b>
22	9:30 AM	Wed	<b>Bus Tour of Tijuana</b>
22	9:30 AM	Wed	Membership Committee, League Office
24	9:30 AM	Fri	Nominating Committee, League Office
25	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office
25	10:30 AM	Sat	<b>Lunch with Escondido League - Bonnie Dumanis</b>
25	5:00 PM	Sat	<b>SD Co. Women's Hall of Fame Dinner, UCSD Price Center Ballroom</b>

## Membership News

We are delighted to welcome the following new members.

NAME	ZIP	NAME	ZIP
Betsy Blakely	92111	Chloe Jade	92154
C. E. Davis	92103	Anita R. Kimball	92116
Arline M. Fisch	92103	Linda Loomis	91910
Bruce D. Gill	92118	David & Maria Potter	92110

At this writing an "Intro to the League" will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25th. Several previous new members who could not come to the last one will be joining us. Next month I will give a report on that meeting.

Betty Weinberger

### 50-Year Members?

Do you think you have been a member of the League of Women Voters (anywhere) for 50 years? If so, please contact me, 619-226-2252.

Dee Sacks

**Here's a little something to run by the next man you meet who wants to know more about the League:** "If men ask what sort of men belong to the League, I always say men who join the League are intelligent, confident, public spirited, possess a terrific sense of humor and genuinely enjoy the company of women." Then ask him if he's that sort of man.

Sylvia Hampton

### 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.

**Yes, I'd like to join the League of Women Voters of San Diego!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 for one membership; \_\_\_\_\_ \$85.00 for two in same household

**Mail to:** League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117

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