



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 70 No. 6

Summer 2006

A Message from our New President

It's summer break! Good time to take a breather, reassess and prepare to start out fresh in the fall. And Leaguers are doing just that. Delegates at all levels -- local, state and national -- gathered in June to plan our program, set priorities and elect new leaders for the coming year.



Linda K. Scott

At our chapter's Annual Meeting on June 10, the group voted:

- to retain all existing positions;
 - to analyze and present to the public the pros and cons of outsourcing San Diego City government jobs in anticipation of a proposition on the November 2006 ballot; and
 - to review Charter Commissions and how they have worked in other cities.
- If you're interested in becoming involved in one of those topics, please contact Norma Damashek, Public Policy VP, 858-459-8751.

The members also debated the very difficult topic of raising the membership dues. There was pro and con testimony, but ultimately the group voted to approve increasing the dues by \$10 for an individual and \$5 for a second household member. The last increase in dues was in 1999. Did you know that even with an increase in dues to \$65, the San Diego chapter only gets \$15.20 of that? Where will your dues of \$65 go? \$26.30 to LWVUS for national study, action, office, publications, and National Voter magazine; \$21.00 to LWVC for state action, development, office, and quarterly California Voter; \$2.50 to ILO (Inter-League Organization) for county action, office and Collage; and \$15.20 to LWVSD for local studies, voter service, action, office, and monthly San Diego Voter.

The 2006-07 Board of Directors approved at the Annual Meeting includes:

President	Linda Scott (new Board member)
Treasurer	Christine Ahalt (returning)
Secretary	Peg Bates (new Board member)
VP/Administration	Jeanne Brown (new Board member)
VP/Development	Sarah Hurd (new Board member)
VP/Membership	Peggy Finch (new Board member)
VP/Program	Beryl Flom and Shirley Larson (returning & new)
VP/Public Policy	Norma Damashek (returning)
International Relations	Anne Hoiberg and Rebecca Booth (returning & new)
Natural Resources	Jill Elsner (returning)
Voter Editor	Faye Rose (returning)
Social Policy	Nancy Witt & Ruberta Castro (new Board members)
Unit Coordinator	Sarah Brown and Joni Low (returning & new)
Voter Service	Inge Jodka (new Board member)

A special thank you was extended to Kay Ragan, our past president, for the gift of wit, wisdom and leadership she has given our chapter for the past two years. Appreciation also given to Board members that are going off-board: Fran Pierce, Emmett Greenwald, Valerie Chau, Jody Tadder and Suzanne Michel.

(continued on page 2)

Get to Know Linda!

Linda Scott was on the LWVSD Board with the Environmental Portfolio in 1996 and 1997. She organized candidate forums in 1998 through 2000. With reducing family responsibilities, she had agreed to return to the board as a unit meeting coordinator; but when the nominating committee had not found a new president, she agreed to step forward to fill that position.

Linda is a civil and environmental engineering consultant. She also is a member and past chair of the Scripps Ranch Planning Group, a member of the Walk San Diego Advisory Council, and past president of American Public Works Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

We're delighted to welcome her!

League of Women Voters San Diego Voter

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(continued from page 1)

We're delighted that two of our members, Sarah Hurd and Nancy McCleary, traveled to Minneapolis to participate in the National Convention. And Nancy, Sylvia Hampton, Faye Rose and Inge Jodka attended the State Leadership Council. You'll find reports on both events inside.

There's no summer break for an active League member! Although there are no unit meetings in July or August, we are planning a "Lunch with League" on Tuesday, July 25. You'll find details on the program in this issue.

I hope to meet you soon.

Linda K. Scott

Mary G. Wilson New National President

Mary G. Wilson of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was elected unanimously by the more than 700 delegates gathered at the League of Women Voters' 47th biennial national convention in Minneapolis, Minn. In her acceptance speech, Wilson thanked members for entrusting her with the leadership of this 86 year old organization. "The League and its 130,000 grassroots members and supporters will re-double our efforts to end the crisis which has developed in our American democracy," vowed Wilson.

Wilson, an attorney for 30 years, is the managing partner with Aungier & Wilson, P.C. She urged convention delegates to build on their strength as leaders promoting citizen participation in public affairs. "This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grassroots organization," stated Wilson. "We debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including immigration reform, the erosion of civil liberties, the need for redistricting reform, and voting systems in which voters have confidence," Wilson said.

Delegates set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to study immigration policy and calling for the abolition of the Death Penalty.

**League of Women Voters
San Diego Chapter**

“LUNCH WITH LEAGUE” --- PARKS IN DOWNTOWN

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

The Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) will lead a two-hour bus tour of the downtown redevelopment area focusing on existing and planned parks.

Meet at 9:20 a.m.

**CCDC’s Downtown Information Center
NBC Building, 225 Broadway, Suite 160
Ground level, in back of building (on Broadway Circle)**

**At 11:30, panel discussion and lunch:
Athens Market Taverna Greek Restaurant
109 West “F” Street at First Avenue**

Speakers:

**Martin Poirier: *Great Urban Parks*
Spurlock Poirier Landscape Architects**

**Nicole Haines: *Downtown Parks, Existing and Planned*
CCDC Associate Project Manager**

**Gary Smith: *Need for Parks in Downtown San Diego*
Downtown Residents Group**

**Greek Chicken Salad luncheon and tour: \$20.00.
Reservation deadline July 21.
Pease make checks out to LWVSD.
Mail to 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, #104, San Diego 92117**

***Parking can be expensive. Consider using public transportation.
Members of the public are welcome.***



**Downtown Parks Bus Tour
Tuesday, July 25, 2006**

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

_____ Lunch and tour \$20 _____ Lunch only \$20

The LWV National Convention: A Reflection Through a Younger Member's Eyes

As one of the younger League members, I had the great honor and privilege of attending the National Convention. Never have I been so simultaneously inspired, overwhelmed, in awe of the women and men before me, and at the same time so very concerned about preserving the legacy and important work of the League, both nationally and locally.

The list of accomplishments of what League members are doing around the nation is amazing. My belief that the work we do *does make a difference* was further cemented. I heard inspiring stories of the League, how one branch filed a law suit and won, or how another is challenging regulations that restrict voter access. It caused me to ask in excited anticipation, "What will we in San Diego do this year?" or "What will San Diego be known for in 2007?" I can hardly wait to see the answer. (One answer could be that we are a pilot site for the National League's new marketing strategy, which we have to apply for via an RFP process through National, which is due near the end of July 2006.)

Something that struck me like a ton of bricks was the immediate need for League members to begin to share their knowledge and expertise with younger women and men. Many of my generation not only have no context or framework with which to understand the current political situation, but I also see them shying away from civic involvement out of lack of knowledge. Either because they don't know how to get involved, or think they are all alone without help or support.

The League also made history or herstory, by holding the first-ever Younger Women's Caucus, which presented its findings, passion and commitment to the National Board Members to a rousing standing ovation. I had the privilege of participating in the Caucus. Many timely and much needed recommendations and conversations came out of it, as well as the formation of an informal (hopefully soon to be formal) committee or task force that will assist the National League in its efforts to recruit, retain and reach out to younger women and men. I am looking forward to lending my energy and expertise to help keep the energy and momentum that the Caucus created alive.

Another critical component of the Convention was the discussion around the necessity for change. It is brutally apparent to the majority of members that adaptations in the ways both the local and national Leagues do their work must take place in order to account for the ways our country's political, technological, media and marketing landscapes have changed. Some specific strategies discussed were

- updating brochures and other outreach/marketing materials at the local level, so they are current and more easily able to attract a wider range of members
- being mindful of diversity in age, ethnicity and socioeconomic status of prospective members
- changing meeting times to allow working members to attend
- being mindful of the individual personality and lifestyle of new younger members when they first join, letting them get acquainted with the League a bit before assigning them Board appointments with a lot of responsibility
- being mindful of their work and outside life by offering them smaller meaningful tasks they can do to contribute to the League.

It was clear that the League is aware that without change its strength will continue to be compromised. And in an era where our democratic, biological and personal freedoms are increasingly being infringed upon, we do not have the luxury of standing by and continuing business as usual.

To conclude, the National Convention was for me a tremendous time for education, reflection, appreciation and call to action. Education, in that there was so much to learn. Reflection and appreciation for all the hard *and* strategic work women and men have done generations before me. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it was a call to act. Act by reaching out and learning from my fellow members. Act by reiterating the value of the League to the current generations and those to come, who will more than ever need the League and its ability to preserve and protect our democratic freedoms.

Sarah Hurd, National Convention delegate
2006-07 Vice President for Development

LWVSD Annual Report, 2005-6

Programs

Co-sponsored a public forum on Municipal Bankruptcy with San Diego State University
Public Administration & Urban Studies Department
Educated League members on the USA PATRIOT Act, voting procedures, energy, the
United Nations, strong mayor government,
Organized bus tours of the SD Port District and of social agencies in Tijuana

Voters Service

Co-sponsored a candidate forum for Mayor with Common Cause and UCSD and
moderated other forums
Spoke at the Catfish Club on the ballot initiatives in the general election
Gave approximately 43 presentations to 1500 members of the public and the League
on the pros and cons of ballot issues before November & June elections
Sponsored an Earth Day booth to register voters, disseminate information and hand out
tree seedlings
Registered voters at the Scripps Ranch Community Fair

Advocacy – in Coalition

Participated in an Envision San Diego Forum on Strong Mayor form of government
Participated in the United Nations Association's Women's Equality Day and
International Women's Day as well as Roe v. Wade Day
Partnered with the Women's Hall of Fame to sponsor their Induction Ceremony
Participated in the By the People Program (through the SD County LWV) panel on
healthcare
Participated on the panel educating the public on Transparency of City Bureaucracy ,
sponsored by CalAware, part of Sunshine Week
Took action on a variety of state and national topics: reauthorization of the USA
PATRIOT Act and of the Voters Rights Act, ethics and lobbying reform in
national government, free speech on the internet, drilling for oil in the Arctic
A League member served as chair of the Citizens Transition Committee to Strong
Mayor form of government and provided testimony
Testified on incorporating the redevelopment agencies into city policies and other
redemption issues.
Representative sat on the city's Code Monitoring Team including condo conversions.
Monitored the Broadway Complex and Embarcadero redevelopments; individual
members presented testimony.
Supported the formation of the City Council's Elections Task Force; observed
their meetings.
Met with School Superintendent Carl Cohn to present LWVSD's positions on education
and to learn his agenda.

Other

Held a Holiday Party & Silent Auction and the Gloria Penner Civic Service Award
Dinner, both of which raised substantial funds for LWVSD

Advocates Mobilize to Move SB 840 to Governor's Desk

Years of pushing forward through health care studies and prior single payer legislation have led to SB 840 (Kuehl) that provides for universal health insurance for Californians. Initiated by Health Care for All-California (HCA), this bill with 39 coauthors has passed the Senate and the Assembly Health Committee, and now is poised to pass in the Assembly. The issue of universal single payer health care is in the public view and is a top priority for the people of California. Throughout this longtime effort, the League of Women Voters of California has supported HCA's efforts.

Now is the time to escalate this effort and build support by creating a massive grassroots movement. **The LWVC has endorsed HCA's OneCareNow Campaign for passage of SB 840 and urges Leagues to increase their effort to help pass the bill.** The Campaign defines, in simple terms, a unique California vision for single payer health care. "OneCareNow" means one plan, now. It means one standard of high quality care for all. It means everyone will be in one risk pool and covered by one insurance fund.

The Campaign's organizational framework for building the movement into a major political force is the statewide petition drive and 365-city campaign. The petition drive is spreading across the state and can be accessed at OneCareNow.org. Its growth will accelerate quickly as advocates and petition signers spread the word about this viable solution to the health care crisis.

The central idea of the 365-city campaign is simple. Starting August 12, there will be an activity held every day for a year in a different town or city that will focus on education and advocacy for universal health care insurance. Activists will reach out to local governments, schools, officials, officeholders and others to grow the support. These activities will begin in small towns and culminate 365 days later in the largest city, Los Angeles, on August 12, 2007. A week later, on August 19, 2007, people from these 365 cities and throughout the state will hold a huge rally in Sacramento to call for universal health insurance.

Other organizations also are gearing up to work for SB 840. The California Nurses Association is now a sponsoring organization. Others such as the California Physicians Alliance, California Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, Latino Issues Forum and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, California have indicated that passing SB 840 is a top priority. Others will join and involve their members in the campaign.

The Campaign, and at this time especially the petition drive, is critical to building the momentum to get SB 840 to the governor's desk this year. SB 840 will require a simple majority to pass. Intense support from constituents will move the Assembly to pass the bill. **The LWVC urges Leagues to participate in the campaign at the highest level possible for their members.**

Passage of SB 840 will pave the way for final enactment of universal health insurance. The Campaign will continue to work for passage of SB 1784 (Kuehl), a companion bill introduced this year to provide the funding mechanism for the state's new universal insurance fund. Senator Kuehl and other legislators are working to define the complex details that must be added before this bill can move forward. It will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

Working closely with HCA, the LWVC's eight health care committee members are well informed on the issues. Each member has been assigned as a resource person for about nine Leagues. All League presidents will soon receive more information to provide to interested members.

For more information, please contact Sylvia Hampton, ILO VP for Health (858) 578-8852 or sylvia-hampton@sbcglobal.net or Susan Duerksen, San Diego HCA/CA Membership Director at susand@cts.com

Highlights of State Leadership Council Meeting in Sacramento

The State Leadership Council gave some of us a chance to explore the Capitol and Old Town Sacramento, in addition to meeting some very bright, knowledgeable and dedicated State leaders and hearing a lot of worthwhile ideas. Although it focused on helping us become better chapter leaders, many other fascinating items were presented, to wit:

- 59% of the American people think LWV is the most trustworthy organization in the U.S.! It is known for being non-partisan, reliable, knowledgeable and up to date.
- The LWVC budget presented and passed featured a greater emphasis on fundraising and communication, including "branding" and marketing. Major investments in technology and communication were planned to assist those efforts, including the hiring of Executive Director who has strong fundraising skills.
- New fundraising strategies were not mentioned but in place and reaping benefits, such as vehicle donations, planned giving and major gifts.
- Outreach pays off, they say, not only in membership, but in fundraising, public relations and informed voters. A good way to accomplish this is to partner with other groups serving same audiences.
- Our changing state: 1/4 of Californians were born outside the U.S. ---50% are in the lowest two quintiles of literacy.
- Leagues are urged to contract with Home Owners Associations to conduct their elections now that a new law has been passed mandating a neutral observer/facilitator. This would provide a valuable service and at the same time earn money for the Chapter. Home Owners Associations have become very powerful in California --- \$7 billion in Home Owners fees were collected in 2005!
- There is a huge effort underway by a number of states to bring about a National Popular Vote (which does not require a constitutional amendment, by the way). The National Advisory Board of National Popular Vote includes John Buchanan (R-Alabama, Birch Bayh (D-Indiana), John Anderson (R-Illinois), Tom Campbell (R-California), David Durenberger (R-MN), and Jake Garn (R-Utah). A New York Times editorial of last March is headed "Drop Out of the College." Information is available at www.NationalPopularVote.com.
- SB840 Kuehl, a single payer health insurance bill initiated by Health Care for All-California (HCA) and supported by LWV, is getting a lot of attention. See page 6 for details and what you can do to help.
- A Leagues can diversify your membership by reaching out to nonprofits that serve women, youth, low income neighborhoods, and communities of color.
- Every local League should have an MTA, Management Training Associate; ours is Sylvia Hampton. Any potential leader should be familiar with the League's by-laws, policies and adopted positions.
- Distribution of our Pros & Cons was discussed in one workshop: possibly being included with the County and State's Pros & Cons or in the Smart Voter or Easy Voter Guide. Distribution sites might include schools, senior centers, churches, public festivals, and businesses, in addition to libraries.

Altogether, a fascinating experience and a lot of learning in one weekend!

Inge Jodka and Faye Rose, Delegates

International News Items

In early June, the United Nations took an important step toward supporting greater equality for women by electing a woman to serve as General Assembly President for 2006-2007. Her name is Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, a pioneering lawyer and women's rights advocate from Bahrain. She is also the first woman from the Middle East to take the post. . . . Other U.N. news has identified three women in the top ten to be considered for the position of the U.N. Secretary-General; Kofi Annan retires at the end of December. . . . The U.N. is also facing the possibility of being "shut down," if the U.S. determines that sufficient reforms haven't been made by the end of June, 2006, when U.S. funding will stop. No other country treats the U.N. as harshly as the U.S.

On June 5th, the U.S. Department of State released its annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which identified twelve countries that could be subjected to U.S. sanctions unless they meet minimum standards in stopping trafficking in persons. These twelve include Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe. . . . The U.S. Congress passed the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005, legislation designed to protect foreign mail-order brides from male clients who have records of criminal convictions for domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse. As many as 6,000 American men meet their spouses each year through almost 600 Internet-savvy brokers.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has now been ratified by 183 nations of the United Nations. The United States joins other non-ratifying countries, such as Sudan, Somalia, Cook Islands, Iran, and Qatar.

To celebrate Women's Equality Day, the 86th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, League's International Relations Committee and several organizations will present a workshop on the importance of women's participation in the political arena: as voters, campaign volunteers, and elected or appointed public officials. We plan to target young women, those younger than we are! Stay tuned for time and place!

Anne Hoiberg, Co-chair,
International Relations Committee

LWVUS passes Resolution in Support of Voter Verified Paper Records.

MINNEAPOLIS - Verified Voting applauds the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) for its passage of a resolution in support of voter-verified paper records and mandatory random manual audits of voting systems nationwide. The resolution was drafted by the League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWVMN) and put forward at the National League's Annual Convention.

Verified Voting's Bobbie Brinegar, Board Member of the Washington DC LWV, said "This support for voter-verified paper records, coming from the League of Women Voters, is truly a major step forward for election integrity. The League has long been a credible and reliable force in safeguarding our nation's elections." Barbara Simons stated, "I'm thrilled that the League has reaffirmed its core value of protecting the citizens' right to vote and have that vote accurately counted." Dr. Simons is a Board member of Verified Voting, and past president of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

Several state Leagues, like Minnesota's, have been instrumental in supporting the passage of legislation for voter-verified paper records.

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.

Membership News

Please welcome recently joined new members. Have you remembered to invite a friend to join? Currently the LWVSD has 535 members.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
Bill Braderic	92118	Andrea Kerry	92124	Emily Lucius	92106
Lois Davis	92120	Patricia Lehr	92110	Mary A. McDonald	92116
Shirley Greene	92122	Patricia Lokensgard	92064	Dana S. Woods	92107
Colleen Hanna	92130	Linda Loomis	91910	Fangrong Zhang	92104
Linda Janon	92037	M. Lucas	92107	Guenevier Zinser	92104

I have truly enjoyed being membership chair for the last two years. We've had several "Introductions to the League". It is always a pleasure to meet prospective members and learn about their enthusiasm for League. At the annual meeting on June 10th, we honored many of our 40-plus-year members. If you know of prospective members, please give Peggy Finch a call at 858-484-2516. I thank all who have helped me with membership, especially my committee.

Betty Weinberger, Membership Chair,

Volunteers with Much or Limited Time!

Either way, we want you and need you! Please call our new Membership Chair, Peggy Finch, 858-484-2516 and let her know you are available on a long- or short-term basis.

Here are some of our ongoing committees:

Education	Public Policy
Social Policy	Membership
Development	

You will have fun. . . and get to know some very interesting people!

2006 Membership by States

You might like to know that **California has by far the most members of any state.** The 2006 top ten membership states :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. California - 10,460 | 6,7. Florida - 2,806 |
| 2. New York - 6,408 | Pennsylvania 2,806 |
| 3. Massachusetts - 4,477 | 8. Texas 2,743 |
| 4. Illinois - 3,733 | 9. New Jersey 2,465 |
| 5. Ohio - 3,073 | 10. Connecticut 2,452 |

Also our San Diego League with over 500 members has more members than the entire membership of each of the following 20 states!

Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming, plus the District of Columbia

Dee Sack, Dues Secretary

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

Name: _____ 2nd Household Member: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$65 for one membership; _____ \$100 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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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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