



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. 4

April 2006

UNITS: United Nations --- Renewal or Reform?

In the months before the U.N. General Assembly convenes in September, the issue of changing the United Nations is being discussed and negotiated. Several key topics are under consideration, which we will deliberate during our April Unit discussions.

Secretary-General of the United Nations: A Woman for a Change?

Should League consider having a woman to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations? Which woman should take the helm in January 2007? Gro Harlem Brundtland, former President of Norway and former Director of the World Health Organization? Any of the current women Presidents or Prime Ministers? Should we forward recommendations of our favorites to Ambassador John Bolton at usa@un.int?

Human Rights Council: How are Human-Rights-Abusing Countries Identified ?

The proposed Human Rights Council has been lauded as an improvement over the current Human Rights Commission, a change that the U.S. Government has had at the top of its U.N. Reform Agenda. How should membership of the Council be determined? Can members be expelled from the Council? When will the Council meet and where will it be located? Should the work of the 27 special rapporteurs be continued?

(continued on page 3)

Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner

At the League of Women Voters annual Gloria Penner Dinner, Civic Service Awards will be presented to a unique online news site, a courageous whistle-blower, and a tireless League leader. It will be held on Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Mission Valley Hotel.

The **Voice of San Diego** news website will receive an award. It aims "to deliver ground-breaking investigative journalism for the San Diego region and provide in-depth analysis so that citizens can become advocates for good government," according to the website's mission statement. The League feels the organization has made significant progress toward its mission, which is in accord with League goals.

The second civic service award will be presented 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." The League applauds her courage and her wisdom, which for too long went unheeded.

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NOTE:

This brochure (on pages 5-6) can be folded in thirds (cover out, please), so you can take it with you and spread the word about LWV wherever you go!

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
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Kay's Komments

Put Picture here

We have had a busy and exciting month of March with many successful events and activities. I hope you are ready with me to turn your attention to our major event of the year, the annual Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner scheduled for April 19 at the Hilton Hotel in

Mission Valley. You should have received your formal invitation in the mail.

This event promises to be a fun and rewarding evening together with the recognition of some very deserving people. Honorees include Voice of San Diego, the online newspaper that will be recognized for its investigative reporting. Diann Shipione Shea will be honored for her integrity and courage in exposing the abuse surrounding the City's pension funds. Our own Norma Damashek will be honored for her long-term service and her more recent leadership as chair of the community transition committee to provide input for the strong mayor form of governance.

If you have not mailed your reservation, I hope you will do so today!

We are looking for a member to work with the Smart Voter team, made up of representatives from us and the three other Leagues in the county. If you enjoy communicating with candidates and assisting them in getting information on the web, this is the job for you. Check out the website, <http://www.smartvoter.org> and you will see the kind of information that we need to make available to our members and to the public. The state League is the keeper of the website and local Leagues add local information regarding candidates, ballot initiatives and other voter information.

The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Betty Weinberger, chair, has been busy throughout the last several months hosting Intro to League events. They do a great job of helping new members learn how they can find their niche in League. In case you are reading this and thinking, 'What is my niche?', you will want to attend the next 'Intro,' not only for new members!

Until next month, Kay

(U.N. continued from page 1)

Peacebuilding Commission: Who Keeps the Peace When Wars End?

In December 2005, the 31-member Peacebuilding Commission was established to monitor those countries that may relapse into conflict after peace agreements have been adopted. The Commission will propose integrated strategies for stabilization, economic recovery and development, and provide recommendations for improving the coordination of the U.N. system in those efforts.

U.N. Security Council: Should the 15-member Body be Expanded?

The position of the LWVUS is that the U.N. Security Council should be more representative of the world's diversity and population. Should India, Japan, Germany, Brazil, and two countries from Africa become permanent members of the U.N. Security Council? What are the pros and cons of such a change? What countries should have veto power?

Oil-for-food Program: Who Benefited and Who Lost?

What were the results of the Volcker report on the Oil-for-food Program? How was Saddam Hussein "able" to effectuate surcharges on oil, initiate kickbacks on purchases of humanitarian goods, and engage in oil smuggling while members of the U.N.

Security Council monitored the program? If the U.N. was incapable of overseeing the program, what entity could have taken on such an endeavor?

U.N. Convention against Corruption: Are Any Countries "Free" of Corruption?

How will the United Nations determine the extent of corruption in a sovereign country? How can a corrupt regime be punished?

U.N. Convention on Terrorism: "Your Terrorist is my Freedom Fighter!"

Many nations believe that a definition of terrorism is needed in efforts to stop it. A comprehensive treaty has been suggested that includes a universal definition of terrorism. Why is there a need for such a convention? Currently, twelve resolutions on terrorism have been adopted by member states of the U.N. How effective have these been?

Other Considerations: Women's Empowerment, Children's Rights, Disarmament!

If time permits, we will discuss CEDAW, Millennium Development Goals, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and nuclear and small arms proliferation/disarmament.

--- Anne Hoiberg, Chair
International Relations Committee

(GP Dinner 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 for a smooth transition to the strong mayor form of government as chair of the Citizens' Advisory Committee. Damashek's leadership of the League's Public Policy Committee has provided a keen watch on city government.

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. The panelists will be:

- Scott Barnett, CEO, San Diego Co. Taxpayers Assoc., 1994-2001
- Paul Downey, CEO, Senior Community Centers
- Richard Ledford, CEO, Ledford Enterprises
- Abbe Wolfsheimer Stutz, San Diego City Council, 1985 -1993

The cost of the dinner at League member tables is \$85 per person. The cost for others is \$95 per person. Proceeds from the dinner will help fund public policy information, education and nonpartisan voter information.

You should have received your invitation with the reply card and menu choices. The deadline for reservations is April 12th.

For information or reservations, call 619-233-8133 or go to the website: www.lwvsandiego.org

Sylvia Hampton

Unit Meetings for April

“United Nations --- Renewal or Reform?”

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, April 10 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 Peg Bates (858) 484-6069
Monday, April 10 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, April 11 9:30 – 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, April 11 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of Adrienne Schere 1001 Genter Street, Suite 7A. La Jolla, CA 92037	LaRu DeKock (858) 455-1990 Laura Stevenson (858) 573-9734
Wed., April 12 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. April 12 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. April 13 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 — April

April			
4	6:00 PM	Tues	Board Meeting, League Office
6	9:30 AM	Thurs	Unit Council Meeting, League Office
7	11:00 AM	Fri	ILO Board Meeting, League Office
8	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office
4/10 to 13			Units - “United Nations --- Renewal or Reform?”
11		Tues	Primary Election for Congressional District 50
12		Wed	<i>Passover begins</i>
16		Sun	<i>Easter</i>
19	10:00 AM	Wed	Membership Committee, League Office
19	6:00 PM	Wed	Gloria Penner Dinner, Hilton Hotel/Hotel Circle
21	9:30 AM	Fri	Public Policy Committee, League Office
22	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office
23	10:00AM-5:00PM	Sun	Earth Day, Balboa Park

ADMINISTRATION

The LWV continues to be run by volunteers.

- * Increased membership by ten percent
- * Emailed "Calls to Action" were sent to an expanded list of over 250 members
- * Revised the Website
- * Published the VOTER newsletter monthly, both hard copy and on-line
- * Gave away tree seedlings on Earth Day
- * Held the third Annual Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner
- * Received bequests and major donations in support of our work
- * Held the Holiday Party and Silent Auction fundraiser
- * Appointed the League's first Advisory Board for development and fundraising
- * Provided observers to several government and school district meetings



LWVSD ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROGRAMS 2004 – 2005

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan voter organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SAN DIEGO (LWVSD)

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Fax: (858) 483-8396
Email: lwvsd@san.rr.com
Web: www.lwvsandiego.org

VOTERS SERVICE & PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH

- ✧ Forum on the California Master Plan for Education
- ✧ Student debate on the Kyoto Treaty at the University of San Diego
- ✧ City Heights Voter Education breakfast programs in four languages funded by a grant
- ✧ Eighteen candidate forums/debates
- ✧ 73 ballot issue presentations
- ✧ Voter Registration Booth at "Smack Down the Vote" wrestling match
- ✧ Naturalization ceremony for 1,100 new citizens
- ✧ Interviews given on local media shows.

VOTER INFORMATION

- ✧ Supports local Smart Voter, internet access for non-partisan election information <http://www.smartvoter.org>

VIGOROUS ADVOCACY FOR BETTER CITY GOVERNMENT

- ✧ Supported open government ballot measure
- ✧ Supported ballot measure to raise Transient Occupancy Tax
- ✧ Opposed strong mayor ballot measure
- ✧ Co-signed a lawsuit calling for the counting of all ballots in the Mayoral election
- ✧ Supported the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Strong Mayor Transition
- ✧ Provided the leader of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for transition to strong mayor
- ✧ Opposed Mexico/San Diego border fence legislation
- ✧ "Worked in coalition with other groups on the issues of asthma/clean air, reproductive choice, healthcare, mental health, regional governance, and recycling, Regional Governance, and Recycling
- ✧ Interviewed local state legislators on issues of importance to the LWV of California.

MEMBER EDUCATION

Topics covered in eight neighborhood meetings each month: pros and cons of ballot measures; LWV of California Education study; abused, neglected and abandoned children in the Foster Care system; role of the U.S. in the U.N.; global energy, fair banking for all, and city government. Tours of the Polinsky Center, San Pasqual Academy, and the Port Authority.

EMPHASIS IN 2005-2006

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| *Energy | *City Government |
| *Redevelopment | *The Patriot Act |
| *Healthcare | *Border Issues |

"BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION"



Membership News

We are delighted to welcome the following new members.

NAME	ZIP	NAME	ZIP
Jill Elsner	92027	Dawn Stoll & Phil Fernandes	92111
Eleanor Forester	92038	Donna S. Worcester	92122
Susan Fry	92037		

It is with regret that we report the death of two of our members in February.

Beatrice Walba, a member of the East San Diego unit, belonged to the LWV since 1949. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.S. in Science. She and her husband moved to San Diego shortly afterwards.

Dorothy J. Jennings was a member of the Tierrasanta unit. She had been a lifelong teacher with the last 20 years of teaching in the Community College system. Dorothy joined the League in 2000.

On a happier note, an "Intro to the League" was held in February at Dawn Stoll's home. In fact, she & her husband joined on the spot! We welcomed several new members and one prospective. I will continue to have smaller, more frequent "Intros." If you give me the names, etc., of prospective members, I will be happy to follow through.

Betty Weinberger, Membership Chair
858-674-0909

Calling All LWV Volunteers!!!

Earth Day is Sunday, April 23,
Balboa Park

This year LWV of San Diego will have a spacious and shaded booth for Earth Day. Our booth co-sponsors are Aquatic Adventures, a children's environmental education organization. League volunteers will assist with interactive bird displays/games, and provide our oak tree/torrey pine seedlings as a prize for the kids and relatives who participate. We are also discussing whether to have an interactive display on the energy study.

If you would like to volunteer (and it is very fun and relaxing), please contact Suzanne Michel at smichel61@cox.net or 619-449-4008. For more information, see the Earth Day website: <http://www.earthdayweb.org/> or Aquatic Adventures: <http://www.aquaticadventures.org/>

Suzanne Michel

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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