



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. 5

May 2006

UNITS: “DOUBLE WHAMMY”— May Unit Meetings will be split between:

- ❑ **The Pros and Cons of the ballot measures for the June 6th primary election**
- ❑ **A discussion on the direction the LWVSD should take in the 21st century**

This discussion at each Unit will be recorded and then summarized and finalized at the Annual Meeting the morning of June 10th – it’s important that you participate in both stages of this analysis of our League. We need your input!

Ballot Measures

- * State Proposition 81 – a bond issue for the support of libraries
- * State Proposition 82 – proposes a continuing tax on high-income individuals/couples to support one year of voluntary pre-school for all children
- * County Proposition A – cleans up the County Charter
- * County Proposition B – allows write-in candidates in primaries but not in general elections

LWVSD Discussion

As we discuss possible changes in the San Diego League we must keep in mind that we are part of a national organization whose mission is to “promote the active and informed participation of all citizens in government and politics through education and advocacy”. Keep this in mind as you read through this outline before you consider any of the questions. Here are some of the issues you might talk about:

Don’t miss the LWVSD Annual Meeting!

Saturday June 10, 9:30 a.m.

Mission Valley Library

Friars Road and Fenton Parkway (adjacent to Ikea)

Continental Breakfast \$12 — Registration only \$5

- **Vote on Next Year’s Program!**
- **Election of Officers!**
- **Recognition of Long-Time Leaguers!**
- **Approve the Budget**

Speaker: Bernadette Del Chiaro

**Environment California Research and Policy Center, Sacramento,
speaking on
Distributed Generation**

*What’s all the “buzz” about Distributed Generation?
(see page 5)*



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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO
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Kay's Komments

Put Picture here

I am writing this just moments after the very successful Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner. See article in this issue. You must appreciate the work that Beryl Flom, Sylvia Hampton and Jody Tadder have put into this event for the past four years. Like any major event, to be successful the group evaluates the

function and begins to plan for the next year almost immediately. I have only been involved the last two years and appreciate the way you and the public have supported the honorees with your attendance.

Earth Day on April 22, under Suzanne Michel, was again a very successful event for the League.

We had a lively board meeting this month; however, now that I think about it, they are always lively. You will note elsewhere in the Voter that the Board is recommending three program activities for the year. We continued our discussion relative to conducting business without a president and are offering an addition to the Bylaws to accommodate this situation.

An ad hoc committee has been appointed to review the office situation. The office is a costly item and there are those who believe we could do business without a traditional office.

The April Unit meetings were very special. If you missed Anne Hoiberg's update of the United Nations, you missed a real treat. Anne challenged us to consider contacting John Bolton at usa@un.int to recommend a woman for the first time to head up the United Nations. She also outlined the plans for its renewal. The new Millennium Development Goals are: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2) achieve universal primary education; 3) promote gender equality; 4) reduce child mortality; 5) improve maternal health; 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases; 7) ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) develop a global partnership for development. Does it sound like the League's agenda?

We are not planning a June Voter, so this is my opportunity to urge you to attend the Annual Meeting on June 10 at the Mission Valley Library and the ILO Annual Meeting on June 24 at University Town Center in La Jolla. Both Saturday meetings will have speakers, action on program at the local and county levels respectively, budget and election of officers, plus the fellowship of colleagues and friends.

I hope to see you soon. Kay

Suggested Discussion Topics for May Unit Meetings (continued from page 1)

- 1) **Unit meetings** – Mission Valley (evening), University City (afternoon), and Rancho Bernardo (morning) all have good and increasing attendance. La Jolla and North Shores/Point Loma have steady but smaller attendance. East San Diego is down to five members. Leadership is hard to change in Units - people do not readily volunteer. How can we get more members attending Unit meetings or should some or all Units be disbanded? Should we do one or more of the following:
- a) Add Lunch with League in either the UTC or downtown area?
 - b) Add an online unit?
 - c) Start a book group? Or do book groups every other month at Unit meetings?
 - d) Have Units meet every other month?
 - e) Have more general meetings?
 - f) Show video tapes with outside speakers rather than League research committees present at Unit meetings?
 - g) Concentrate only on local issues at Units?
 - h) Have an action aspect at each Unit? – e.g. write letters about the topic.
 - i) Form new Units downtown, Pacific Beach, or south of downtown/Coronado?
 - j) Arrange more carpooling for Unit meetings?

General Meeting where the public is invited: When is the best time to have one ?

- 2) **LWVSD Leadership**
The 2006 Nominating Committee has found co-chairs for more positions for next year. Most members commend active Leaguers for our work but are unable or unwilling to take leadership positions themselves. Part of the problem is the age of our members. How can we attract younger people? How can we get people to volunteer? (Younger people are probably working or raising a family.)

3) **League Finances and Development**

- a) The current Development Committee is working on building our funds so we can hire an Executive Director/Fundraiser who can increase our income to support him or herself. Some members of the Board think we should hire a fundraiser next year part time. This issue is tied up with the Leadership question. The budget committee is recommending to the Board that the local dues be increased by \$5 above any national or state dues increases to cover increases in operating expenses. Your comments would be appreciated.
- b) Should the Gloria Penner Civic Service Awards dinner be eliminated because it is getting too expensive? What other fundraising ideas do you have?
- c) How can we get more members to help with fundraising?

4) **Office and Office Manager**

Another way to cut costs is to eliminate the office. We could archive some files and store current papers in someone's (probably the President's) home, outsource our copying, and meet in a public place or members' homes. The office manager could be eliminated or could work from her/his home. The office manager currently handles mail and checks, phone calls, and databases. She creates the *Voter* and other publications on the computer and maintains the website. She does mailings, particularly for the membership committee. Your comments, please.

Beryl Flom, (858-459-4406, edflom@sbcglobal.net)
and Emmett Greenwald (858-673-7432)

Deadline for July Voter

Since our Annual Meeting takes place in June, there will be no Unit Meetings that month and no June *Voter*. Our Summer *Voter* will cover the results of the Annual Meeting, as well as a report on the State Leadership Council in Sacramento in May and the LWVUS Convention in June. Deadline for that issue will be June 15th.



Tijuana – Leaguers Get The Inside Scoop

Beryl Flom

On March 22nd, 30 Leaguers from all over the county were led by Prof. Victor Clark of SDSU on a tour to discuss social issues in Tijuana. We learned about El Bordo and Grupo Beta, government agencies that try to stop people from crossing into the U.S. They have 20 groups who go out on ATV's looking for illegal activities and human rights violations. People are told the wrong information about life in the U.S., so El Bordo tries to dissuade them. We discussed the merits of putting up the border fence and their reaction was that more people will cross in the desert and more will die. 70% of them are men – and about 400 die. Many of them come through Mexico from other countries including Central America, Kenya, China, Iraq, Iran, Russia, and Cuba. Grupo Beta stops 30%. They work with the American Friends Committee in the U.S. They think the problem is getting worse because the “coyotes” (human smugglers) are more dangerous and armed.

Prostitutes Organized

Then we met with the Organización Vanguardia de Mujeres Libres Maria Magdalenas, an organization of prostitutes who are improving human rights and health among their members. Sex workers are legal in Mexico, which puts a whole different light on the occupation. They are paid \$10 for 10 minutes but some of that goes toward their expenses including \$300/year for health checks. However, it is a good paying job for an uneducated woman, and the ones we talked with had no interest in changing careers. 5,000 prostitutes live and work in Tijuana, 1,500 of them are concentrated in the red-light district which we drove through. About half are registered and get regular health check-ups for venereal diseases and AIDS. The Organización was originally formed because the municipal police were persecuting them. Alcohol and drugs are a big problem in the area. If a man abuses one of the prostitutes, the others beat him up. Dr. Clark exposes many groups and community leaders to sex workers, so they understand their issues. They wanted to know how the League could work with them, so we suggested that they make a list of their goals. It was also suggested that they could meet with the CEPA group at UCSD.

3 million people live in Tijuana

After a delicious and leisurely lunch at Casa del Mole, we drove to a Lomas Taurinas neighborhood of Indian migrants (Mixtecos) from Chiapas and the

Oaxaca area. We visited two families who share a fairly large cement house that did not have some of its outside walls. Actually 16 people in 3 families live in this house. They paid \$7,000 for the land, but squatters invade their property. They share a kitchen and bathroom, have running water, sewer, and electricity, but no heat. There were 3 TV's and a huge boom box in the living room and they came up with 30 folding chairs for us. Their furniture had been donated. The women clean rich Mexican homes or stay home with the small children. They said it is better in Tijuana because they can have conveniences like TV and can find work in Tijuana. The unemployment rate is 1.5%. This family pays property tax of \$30/year; there is no income tax. School fees are \$130/year. There are 52 different Indian groups with their own cultures and languages (not dialects) in Tijuana. Next to that overbuilt hillside was a lovely upper class neighborhood which we drove by on the way to the City Hall where we met with the Social Services Department.

Federal, state, municipal, and private schools

Only the municipal ones are free. They have 10 elementary schools and 1 high school in the municipal system which serves 5,000 students and employs 400 teachers. We got the message that a lot of kids must not go to school – the fees are pretty high and the free schools are just a few. These uneducated people are taking big risks to make a living – crossing the border, sex, or whatever it takes.

They also told us about their Social Service Department which provides medical care; shelters for the elderly, migrants, addicted, suicidal, and homeless; help in connecting ethnic Indian groups with the government; and help for those who experience natural disasters. There appears to be little enforced building codes in the colonias, so disasters are probably pretty frequent. Only those working for the government or larger industry have health insurance. We saw a new large hospital being built to treat Americans. The Department's budget is \$1.8 million and they serve 200,000/year. Some of this money comes from the federal government. Seniors now receive cash assistance for food, medical assistance, and adult day care programs. The Youth Institute works with teenagers and 20-somethings by providing computer training, education on starting a business, job orientation, and 3000 scholarships.

We didn't leave till after dark, but it was a very enriching experience.

Distributed Generation -- what's that all about?

(continued from page 1)

Scientists say the traditional approach of building large power plants and long transmission lines (as promoted by large utilities) provides us with a brittle, vulnerable power system that actually increases the chance of blackouts. They believe that state and federal agencies should encourage Distributed Generation (DG), or "small" energy, that is produced by using local resources such as solar, wind, and bio products. Governments should fund and encourage investment in new technologies such as fuel cells, micro-turbines and micro-grids. These viable alternatives for our energy portfolio also include conservation through "demand management" for cities, business, schools and homes. DG is being implemented in every state. One example is California's Solar School Initiative, a program that provides funds for schools to generate their own energy via solar panels.

To learn more about DG and what is being done and funded for California, come to the Annual Meeting and hear an invigorating presentation by Bernadette Del Chiaro!

Breaking News!

Our Annual Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner was a resounding success! Over 220 attended, including a major number of elected officials and current candidates. After all expenses, our proceeds should top a record \$10,000. The success of this fundraiser is what helps us afford our LWV office and part-time office manager.



Other Education News

Expense of SDCS Education 2003-2004

Ed-Data has just released the figures for the expense of education in California in 2003-04. The total dollars coming in for education in the San Diego Unified District was \$1,011,344,859. Our Average Daily Attendance (ADA) was 123,997, which means that dollars per student in the San Diego district were \$8,156. The statewide average of all *unified school districts* per student was \$6,983. The statewide average of *all districts* per student was \$6,919. Ed-Data is full of information about education in California, including information on individual schools and on the amount of funds spent directly on service to students. Check it out at <http://www.ed-data.k-12.ca.us>

Frances Venn
LWV of SD Education Committee

Other News from EdSource

Our attendees at the Pomona Forum were Jan Hartwig, ILO Education Chair, and Frances Venn, LWVSD Education Committee member. Secretary of Education Bersin was the keynote speaker at the conference and our School Superintendent was one of three California superintendents who spoke. Outstanding presentations from the Forum have been posted by EdSource on their web site, <http://www.edsource.org>. If you have Quick Time, you can see the speaker as well as hear the speech. There you will also find Forum-related resources, along with EdSource's rich array of reports and briefs giving you research, analyses, data and information on key education policy issues. Vignettes from the Conference have also been posted on our LWVSD web site. Incidentally, LWV is a founding mother of EdSource.

Sylvia Hampton

29th EDSOURCE Conference

San Diego City Schools were well represented on the stage at the Conference held in Pomona on March 19th. It addressed the question "School Accountability and Funding: Can California get it Right?" The keynote speaker was California Secretary of Education Alan Bersin, formerly Superintendent of San Diego City Schools. Dr. Carl Cohn, current Superintendent of SDCS, was one of three California school district superintendents who spoke about the implications for schools and districts of accountability reform and school financing.

The STAR Test & API Scores

Like all Grades 2-11 students in California public schools, San Diego students spend most of the month of May taking the state STAR tests, as well as other state and federally required tests, to determine the school's ranking on the state's Academic Performance Index (API score). The state accountability program is designed on a growth model. These tests cover content in English language arts, mathematics, history/social science, and science. The STAR tests are aligned to rigorous standards set by the California State Board of Education and to the curriculum taught in California public schools. Schools whose API scores do not show significant growth each year receive special assistance from the California Department of Education. If the school receives federal funds, they are to be directed toward improvement strategies.

Leave No Child Behind Act & AYP Scores

These test results are also used to determine whether schools have made Annual Yearly Progress as required by the federal "Leave No Child Behind Act". The federal system, a status model, focuses on the percentage of students in various sub groups (children living in poverty, English learners, special education, etc.) who score below the proficient level set by each state. The LNCB Act expects that the percentage of students in all subgroups who will score proficient will escalate over time to 100% by 2013-14. If the annual target is not met, the school must develop intervention strategies. If these are unsuccessful, one of the interventions is to direct that the federal funds allocated to the school must be made available to parents who wish to enroll their children in another school.

Two Systems Contradictory

Secretary of Education Bersin talked about how the two different systems for measuring student progress are contradictory, but he stressed that each is essential. Their contradictions must be resolved, but their fundamental purposes must be retained. What might happen in San Diego if the two metrics are not harmonized? By the end of this school year, during one week San Diego parents and taxpayers (especially realtors) might read that their children and their neighborhood school are showing satisfactory progress on the state API report, only to learn the next week that their neighborhood school has fallen behind on the federal AYP proficiency standard. One of the conference speakers called this a "train wreck" just about to occur. It will be felt most acutely in the "leafy suburbs" where parents are accustomed to hearing good news about their schools. Without the federal Title 1 money (allocated to schools serving impoverished rural and urban students), how will these schools with a largely middle-class student population have the resources necessary to provide the interventions required by the federal LNCB Act? Will this result in a drive for vouchers and/or the demise of public education?

"Failure is Not an Option"

Bersin emphasized the concentrated efforts that his office, the California State Superintendent of Education O'Connell, and the Federal Secretary of Education Spellings are making to harmonize the two metrics. None of the stakeholders in public education want to sacrifice any aspect of the accountability reform effort; all California students deserve access to a high quality, rigorous education. He told the conferees that the harmonization effort is not complete yet, but failure is not an option. He added that another metric needs to be developed that assesses the school climate, the culture of the school, because it is realized that these factors profoundly affect students' attitude toward learning and teachers' ability to work effectively with their students.

Carl Cohn's Comments

San Diego Superintendent Carl Cohn has conducted extensive research on the effect of the AYP on urban school districts. He agreed with Bersin that stakeholders in the educational enterprise are in favor of

(Continued from page 6)

accountability, but he said they wish federal and state education officials were being held as accountable when they issue directives to school districts/teachers as districts and teachers are held accountable for students' learning progress. Cohn mentioned under-funded mandates, for example, that cripple school districts' ability to make needed improvements. State budget cuts handicap their ability to meet the needs of all students.

Advisory Committee on Education Excellence

Dr. Ted Mitchell, Chair of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education Excellence, told the conferees, "Accountability and school finance are two sides of the same coin." His committee, financed by the Gates, Hewlett, and Johnson Foundations, is composed of leading California educators, as well as citizens well-known for their interest in public education. Their work has just begun, but they are asking such questions as:

- Are the resources provided to California public schools adequate?
- Could they be used more efficiently?
- If the current allocation of resources does not meet the needs of our diverse school districts, how can that situation be improved?

Dr. Mitchell said that he expected the work of his committee to be completed in 2007.

He was asked what effect the up-coming elections could have on his committee's work. (The questioner was probably remembering how four years of work on the California Master Plan for Education has not been implemented, even though the State Legislature has approved it. San Diego's former State Senator, Dede Alpert, who chaired the Master Plan Committee, is a member of the Advisory Committee.) He stressed that the committee is operating separately from the Governor's office and the State Legislature. He believes that "the bright light now being directed on the inadequate education being provided large segments of California's school population makes the work of his committee essential no matter who is in the Governor's chair or the State Legislature."

Survey of Participants

Before the all-day conference began, a questionnaire was given to the 240 participants. Each conferee was asked:

- 1) To identify his/her position or interest in public education, and then to answer questions about resource distribution to school districts. Overwhelmingly, all groups said that resources were not adequate and were not being allocated efficiently.
- 2) Another question asked whether local districts should be granted the means to raise funds for their schools as they had been before Proposition 13 cut out property taxes as a major source of school financing. There was agreement by all groups that it should be easier for local school districts to raise funds.
- 3) The final question listed various proposals for allowing local districts more latitude in raising funds. The answers to this question varied markedly depending on which group was responding.

What the answers to the questionnaire clearly showed was that the state's preeminent role in school funding is not meeting the needs of local school districts and their students. The educational community is looking beyond the equity provisions of the Serrano-Priest court decision made in 1976 to an equitable system in which every student receives adequate school funding to meet his specific educational needs.

Balancing accountability and school funding is an extremely worthy goal. If it should occur, profound changes could occur in the delivery of public education in San Diego schools, whether they are north or south of Highway 8. How willing and prepared are we San Diegans to support those changes?

Frances Venn
League of Women Voters of San Diego Education Committee

For more Education News, see page 5

May Unit Meetings: "DOUBLE WHAMMY"

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, May 8 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, May 8 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, May 9 9:30 – 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, May 9 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of LaRu DeKock 7285-13 Calabria Ct San Diego, CA 92122	LaRu DeKock (858) 455-1990 Laura Stevenson (858) 573-9734
Wed., May 10 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. May 10 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. May 11 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	San Carlos Public Library 7265 Jackson Drive San Diego, 92119	Barbara Evje (619) 462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — May

May			
2	6:00 PM	Tues	Board Meeting, League Office
4	9:30 AM	Thurs	Unit Council Meeting, League Office
4	10:30 AM	Thurs	Unit Training Meeting, League Office
5	11:00 AM	Fri	ILO Board Meeting, League Office
6 & 7			LWVC Leadership Meeting, Sacramento
8-11			Units - Pros & Cons, LWVSD Discussion
17	10:00 AM	Wed	Membership Committee, League Office
19	9:30 AM	Fri	Public Policy Committee, League Office
June			
6		Tues	Primary Election
10	9:30 AM	Sat	LWVSD Annual Meeting, Mission Valley Library
24	8:30 AM	Sat	ILO Convention, University Towne Center Community Room above Wells Fargo Bank

Membership News

We send letters and/or phone calls to all new members. Please note that we have a special request to members who have joined through the National level. National does not send us phone numbers or email addresses. Please call the League office @ 858-483-8696 or email @ lwvsd@san.rr.com. This is so that our records can be complete and we can personally welcome you. Thank you.

Betty Weinberger, Membership Chair, 858-674-0909

In Memoriam Elizabeth "Betty" Pengelley

The San Diego League recently received a very generous gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Elizabeth Pengelley. The Development Committee is always pleasantly surprised when we receive a gift through planned giving. There is usually a good League story behind the gift.

In looking back in the records, we find that Betty Pengelley had a long love affair with the League of Women Voters. She was our local President in the most interesting of times, 1965-67, when the Vietnam War was escalating. Our longtime members will remember Betty as the person who gave much to League discussions with her great memory for facts, leading to 30 or more years of being one of the most favored Pro-Con speakers. Margaret Stevenson, who chairs the Speakers' Bureau, stated that she would schedule Betty for the most knowledgeable groups because she would be certain to be able to answer their questions. Members of the East County League were grateful for Betty's work in forming that group. League Leader Awardee Jonnie Stahl recalls Betty as being very special to the League's growth and success during her active years. She and her husband Desmond were very active in their various communities. Betty was on the Grossmont Union High School Board for over 12 years. In recent years she was widowed and gradually lost her vision to macular degeneration, but retained her interest in community affairs. Her contributions to our LWV community are acknowledged with great appreciation and she will be missed.

For information on Planned Giving opportunities for the League of Women Voters, please contact the Development Committee: Jody Tadder, Kay Ragan, Sylvia Hampton, or Beryl Flom.

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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