



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 72 No. 2

February 2008

UNITS: PROGRAM PLANNING

The annual program planning Unit meetings are an opportunity for LWVSD members to come together for group discussions with two objectives in mind. First, members will reacquaint themselves with existing local, county, and national League positions. Second, members will develop recommendations for the upcoming year or two. **Suggested programs can be classified as follows:**

- **STUDY:** when an issue is identified that cannot be acted upon for lack of an applicable League position, members may submit a recommendation for a new study. It should be accompanied by a scope or summary statement.
- **CONCURRENCE:** when a study has been completed and a position is held in another League, it could be recommended to be adopted *ver batum* by a vote of the delegates at a Convention or Annual Meeting. It also can be studied and adopted by individual local Leagues. Background material would be available.
- **UPDATE:** when there is reason to believe that an existing position is either outdated, no longer valid, or in demonstrable need of additional analysis and information, members may recommend an update. An update should also have a scope.
- **ISSUE FOR EMPHASIS:** when a combination of member and citizen education based on an existing position is needed; it may also include investigation or action.
- **ACTION:** when a local issue is identified for advocacy through letters, speeches, coalitions, or other types of action, we may take such action if the issue corresponds to or ties in with a League position.
- **INVESTIGATION/INFORMATION GATHERING:** when an issue arises that merits action and is already covered by an existing position, a committee may be formed or an individual may volunteer to gather and report on additional information that can be used to strengthen a course of action (advocacy, publication, public meeting, etc.). The provision of informational reports, reference pieces, new data, and background papers can often take the place of unneeded new studies.

The positions are included in this Voter. You should decide whether you think any need updating. You may have ideas for new studies or a concurrence. Beryl Flom has been collecting ideas submitted by members for the last month and will provide the same list to each Unit meeting, so we can all discuss the same things. The Board will then recommend one or more topics which will be presented to the members at the Annual meeting for their vote.

Mark Your Calendar for Events Coming Up!

February 15 – Luncheon: Excellence in Education. See flyer in this *Voter*

February 22 – Tour of San Diego's Airport. See box on page 7

March 20 - Luncheon: California Secretary of State Debra Bowen.
See flyer in this *Voter*



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Admin. Assistant Genoveva Martinez
 Flexible hours — (call ahead, please)
 Phone: (858) 483-8696 FAX: (858) 483-8396

Email: lwwsd@san.rr.com

Website: www.lwvsandiego.org

SmartVoter: www.smartvoter.org

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Nominations?

The Nominating Committee is meeting in the next few months. If you have a suggestion for board members or if you would like to volunteer for a gratifying job, please contact me.

--- Paula Hurst, 858-292-8214

FYI, the Annual Meeting date has been changed to Saturday, May 31.

Letter from the President

The great thing about February is that you can actually notice the days getting longer -- slowly but surely. It's a welcome boost because there's a very busy schedule ahead of us.

- ✧ We've got a training session on February 2 to launch a signature gathering campaign for a November ballot initiative to reform legislative redistricting in California. League members, along with Common Cause and AARP, will be asked, after filling out their personal petitions, to take the next step and start collecting signatures until we reach the million mark. To borrow from one of our presidential candidates (with no endorsement intended), Yes we can!
- ✧ And take note of the enclosed flyer for our Feb 15 *Lunch with League*. The subject of this event is "Excellence in Education: Can California Schools do Better?" featuring former State Senator Dede Alpert and County Superintendent of Schools Dr Randolph Ward as speakers.
- ✧ On Feb 22, the San Diego League has arranged for a bus tour of the San Diego International Airport, aka Lindbergh Field, for a behind-the-scenes look at the size, shape, and potential (and/or drawbacks) for growth and expansion. Numbers are limited so don't forget to sign up early.
- ✧ February is also the month for Program Planning, a grassroots League activity when members identify the issues they feel are ripe for study, action, or review in the coming year.
- ✧ Looking further ahead, you'll also want to circle March 20 on your calendar. We've lined up Secretary of State Debra Bowen as our guest speaker at Lunch with League to tackle the question of "Restoring Integrity to California's Electoral System." We look forward to getting the lowdown on voting machines, the state of voter protection, and a recap of this month's election process.

Right here in our backyard, the primary races for mayor, city attorney, and city council seats in Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 are heating up. As the most relied-upon moderators for candidate forums, we'll be in heavy demand. Crucial charter change initiatives are also headed for the June ballot. Our long-standing position favoring the city manager system over a strong mayor form of government forces us to keep a critical eye on how the city's experiment with a strong mayor system is going. The LWVSD has been playing a vocal role in the fight to prevent short-circuiting the 5-year trial period the public was promised. It's a frustrating battle in a city where certain council members seem more than willing to relinquish their legislative powers to maintain "harmony" with the city's power elite.

(continued on page 3)

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It's not hard to see why I remain pleased to be playing an active role in the unique organization called the League of Women Voters. We're one of a kind -- a multifaceted civic group that relies on the considerable talents of our members to not only inform and educate the public about voting issues but also to advocate public-interest policy positions on difficult-to-solve social, environmental, international, and good governance questions. With your continued support we'll keep pushing forward, keep questioning the status quo, and keep challenging those in power to use their power to the benefit of the general good.

There's a box of League buttons in our office. Look for the big green ones that say: *Action-packed POLITICS – the League of Women Voters*. It defines our job.

---- Norma Damashek, President
ndamashek@ucsd.edu / 858 459-8751



LWV President Norma Damashek with Roger Showley, Union-Tribune real estate staff writer, who was the moderator for the very successful "Protecting Our Waterfront" Luncheon on November 28. More than 160 Council Members, Leaguers and other "movers and shakers" from the downtown establishment were there. The speakers were Peter Q. Davis, Port Commissioner Laurie Black and Howard Blackson, C-3 Chair and Urban Planner.

Help Redistrict California!

We need your help to get the word out!

The California League of Women Voters has endorsed the Redistricting Reform Initiative known as California **Voters FIRST**, which will take Redistricting out of the hands of self-interested legislators and put it in the hands of an independent commission.

Because the Legislature did not move this effort forward on a timely basis, the League, California Common Cause, and AARP have stepped into the breach to bring it to the voters at this November's election.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced that he will serve as chair of the effort, obtaining signatures around the state and assisting with fundraising.

This initiative is one that the League of Women Voters can wholeheartedly support, as it includes all of the elements that we want to see in the Redistricting process:

- ◆ an independent Redistricting Commission that reflects the diversity of our state
- ◆ an open process for public input and scrutiny
- ◆ sound criteria for the drawing of plans.

We need San Diego League members to join members all over the state to participate in gathering one million signatures.

One of the activities the League will be doing is a workshop that will educate us regarding all aspects of petition-gathering, how the League approaches advocacy, and the specifics of this petition. We hope that many of you will want to attend this workshop:

Redistricting Advocacy Workshop
 Saturday, February 2

A light lunch will be served at no charge
 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.
 Serra Mesa/ Kearny Mesa Library
 9005 Aero Drive, SD 92123

Please RSVP at the League office at 858-483-8696 or email lwwsd@san.rr.com

Call: Jeanne Brown, jhisten@cox.net 858-857-1807
 Sign on for an exciting experience in this important effort, and help make democracy work!

February Unit Meetings: Program Planning

Friday, Feb. 8 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Note New Unit! Southeast Unit	Home of Gwendolyn Pamplin 5851 Skyline Drive San Diego, CA 92114 619-849-0967	Jean Covington (619) 479-6551
Monday, Feb. 11 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	Betty Weinberger (858) 674-0909 Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, Feb. 11 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (near IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, Feb. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Feb. 12 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library, off Nobel at Judicial Drive	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, Feb. 13 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wednesday, Feb. 13 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Feb. 14 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College - Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115	Barbara Evje (619)-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — February

February			
2/1	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
2/2	Sat	noon	Training for Signature Gathering for Redistricting, Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive
2/5	Tue.		<i>Election Day</i>
2/5	Tue.	6:00p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
2/7	Thurs	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
2/7	Thurs	10:30a.m.	Unit Discussion Leader Training, LWVSD Office
2/9 to 14			UNITS - PROGRAM PLANNING
2/15	Fri	11:30 a.m.	Lunch with League: "Education" , Tom Ham's
2/18	Mon		<i>Presidents' Day</i>
2/20	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
2/20	Thurs	12:30pm	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
2/22	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
2/22	Fri.	1:00 p.m.	TOUR OF AIRPORT , Commuter Terminal

Looking Forward to International Women's Day Events!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the beginning of the UDHR60 Campaign. Led by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, the campaign endeavors to increase awareness of the Declaration and the promise that has made this document so enduring, "Dignity and justice for all of us." Joining the UDHR60 campaign, the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign (November 25- December 10) will be expanded, to begin on March 1 and continuing through December 10.

Leading off the events commemorating these campaigns and International Women's Day is **"Femicide in Guatemala: Where is the Outrage?"** scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2, Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley. Keynote speaker **Lucia Munoz**, founder of MIA, Mujeres Iniciando en Las Americas (Women Initiating in the Americas), discusses her recent trip to Guatemala where more than 3,000 women—mostly between the ages of 13 and 300—have been raped, tortured, mutilated, murdered, and left often in public places. Other panelists and members of the Guatemalan delegation will share their experiences in ending the "femicide." This event is free; light refreshments will be served.

Also commemorating International Women's Day is the annual breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Friday, March 7, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park). Speakers will present updates from their recent participation in the meetings of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. This event is \$16 per person or \$120 for a LWV table of eight. Questions pertaining to these events: please call 619-223-8074 or email ahoiberg@aol.com.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, the United Nations Association-San Diego has scheduled a musical program, "Jazz For Peace." Specific information will be published in the next VOTER.

--- Anne Hoiberg Co-Chair

An Interesting Life Story

Excerpted from an email received by Norma Damashek from Board Member Peg Bates. Norma felt it was a story we would all be interested in.

"As some of you know, I have a profoundly deaf daughter. When we lived in New York, I formed a state-wide parents organization and represented New York at the White House Conference on Disabilities as the head of the State Education Committee for Children with Disabilities, which was very successful. I got to know Mario Cuomo very well and traveled with him through New York State taking testimony from disabled people and educators on disabilities.

"My daughter was mainstreamed throughout her education, is oral, got through high school in three years and made the National Honor Society. She was recruited by five major universities to swim, as she was a state, national and internationally ranked swimmer. She is now a rehabilitation counselor in Victorville. She has served on some California State task forces and was the first person with a disability to serve on a committee for the County Supervisors here in San Diego. She has a degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's from San Diego State.

"I can say that if you do your homework, present your cause professionally and keep your cool, you will succeed."

--- Margaret (Peg) Bates

Way to go, Peg! We're proud of you and your accomplished daughter!

If you have a story you'd like to share with fellow Leaguers, we'd love to print it. Send it to the Editor, lwvsd@san.rr.com

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.

LWV Positions on February 5th Ballot Measures

OPPOSE Proposition 91: Transportation Funds
This position reflects the continuing concern about funding earmarks in the state constitution, despite our support for transportation funding.

OPPOSE Proposition 92: Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees
A difficult position as we truly want to see reform of the community college system. We continue to have concerns about changes to the constitution that would restrict the ability to continue other important programs in the future

NEUTRAL Proposition 93: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office
This initiative makes relatively minor changes to the current term limit structure, and without Redistricting reform, does not achieve meaningful reform. It is moreover involved in an increasingly partisan campaign.

NO POSITION Propositions 94-97: Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts
The League has not studied the issues involved, and therefore has taken no position.

Coming Up in April!

For the April Units, we will discuss the book, "You Don't Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization" by Elliott D. Sclar. Please contact Beryl Flom, 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net for a copy or you can purchase one over the Internet. We will also provide a summary of the book to Units in March. We will be discussing Outsourcing or Privatization of Government Services for the April Units and the April luncheon.



School Finance Exploration Partnership Finds Some Common Ground Among Key Education Stakeholders

During 2005-6, the School Finance Exploration Partnership conducted nearly 70 interviews with key opinion-makers and political leaders in California on school finance reform. The partnership included the California School Boards Association, Children Now, the **League of Women Voters Education Fund**, and the California State Parent Teachers Association. The topics covered in the interviews were finance, governance, personnel, data and transparency. The goal was to begin identifying common ground for the development of a comprehensive package of reform and investment in California public education.

In order for any comprehensive education reform to be passed either by the Legislature or the voters, key interests must be in agreement and supportive. Too often the policy debate is highly polarized between two camps: one advocating only for increased resources, the other advocating only for increased efficiency.

Interestingly enough, several themes emerged. It became clear that while there is a vast diversity in terms of political ideology and knowledge of the nuances in the K-12 system, there is a set of core values consistent among California's political and opinion leaders -- responsibility, openness, stability & flexibility, adequacy and equity.

---Excerpted from the 10/19/07 "California Education Convening"

**Don't forget our "Excellence in Education" Luncheon on Friday, February 15!
Reservations are due by February 11. (See insert included in this Voter)**

Membership

Please welcome the following new members!

Sandra Gerrard	92101
Tiffany Hernandez	92110
Mildred Hutcherson	92114
Dolores H. Nelson	91910
Betty Slater	92110

Were you a Member in Omaha, Neb.?

We want to have a record of any years you may have had in other Leagues, in case you are a 40-Year Member or a 50-Year Life Member (no more dues) or other honors. If so, please contact Dee Sacks, 619-226-2252.

Obituary: Barbara Pusateri

The League of Women Voters honors the life of Barbara Pusateri who passed away on January 14, 2008 in Santa Cruz. Barbara was a loyal Board Member, office manager, and Unit chair in Tierrasanta. She was active in the League for decades after moving to San Diego in 1977. According to Pat Richardson, Barbara was quiet but very efficient. She kept track of all the details of running the League's office and usually never forgot anything. During her tenure as office manager, the office was moved several times --- even to the basement of the "Y" where files were stored among the pipes. Barbara worked with good spirits and few complaints. Her loving embrace of the Tierrasanta Unit for which she opened her home for meetings and baked cookies each month was always appreciated. The Tierrasanta Unit always had a high turnout rate and everyone looked forward to the meetings at her house. She was also the Vice President of Administration between 2002-4. Barbara's many contributions to the League will be sorely missed. Contributions in her memory may be made to the LWVSD or to the LWVSD Education Fund.

Here is a big Thank You to Our Silent Auction Donors!

They helped us raise much-needed funds, close to \$4,000 for our operating expenses.
--- Jody Tadder, Brunch Chair

Correct your Membership Roster/ Yearbook

- a) The Unit Chair for the new Southeast San Diego Unit (p. 14 at the bottom) is Jean Covington, 619-479-6551.
- b) The President of LWVUS (p. 15) is Mary Wilson and the President of LWVC is Janis Hirohima.

Want to watch "Water"?

For those who were unable to attend the luncheon on Water Issues, there is a videotape of it available on loan from the League of Women Voter office. Please call the office at 858-483-8696 before you come to pick it up
--- Beryl Flom, 858-459-4406

Tour of San Diego Airport

The Airport Authority is running tours of its facilities. We have reserved a bus for League (members only) on Friday, February 22 from 1 – 3 p.m. Slow walking and riding on the bus – no stairs.

Names must be submitted for security. Please reserve with the League office by February 20 – first come, first served. (23 is the limit) Please send \$10.00 to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117.

Free parking (validated) either in the Commuter Terminal Parking Lot or the West Wing Parking Lot. To get to the West Wing Parking, take Harbor Drive just past the Commuter Terminal and turn right – it is just west of the Commuter Terminal.

Meet in front of Commuter Terminal.

.....
Airport Tour on February 22

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____

Address _____

Email _____ # of People attending _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10.00 per person)



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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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