

League of Women Voters of San Diego County

COUNTY VOTER

Summer 2008

An Inter-League Organization (ILO) - City of San Diego ■ East San Diego County ■ North Coast ■ Escondido

Website: <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The information contained herein is for the use of League members only and cannot be republished or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the League of Women Voters.

Co-President's Letter

By Nancy McCleary, Co-President

During June, CONVENTION was a frequently used word for me and it guided me through a lot of action. This Voter has the slate of the 2008-2010 board officers and directors produced by the 23rd LWVSDC Convention held on June 7. Starting July 1, Co-President Kay Ragan, LWVSD, will lead Program and I will guide Administration. Kay's Voter article provides the issues the County League will activate in 2008-2009.

As the County League's representative at the 48th Convention for LWVUS in Portland, Oregon, I encountered more convention activities - workshops, caucuses, plenary sessions and the opportunity to talk with California and other U.S. League members. There were 684 voting delegates from 49 states including Donna Oba from Hawaii (previous Escondido League president). The Iowa League members had to cancel their attendance due to the severe floods in their state. The additional guests were Portland's LWV volunteers, LWVUS staff, and board members which brought the total attendance to 997. The results of a vibrant grassroots organization!

Based on the U.S. inflation, League delegates adopted the LWVUS proposal to not raise the PMPs in 2008, but will raise the PMPs by \$1.20 in 2009 for a total of \$29.20. Eleven LWVUS ByLaw changes were brought to the floor by the LWVUC Board and several Local Leagues. Six changes passed and five were defeated. After obtaining the amendments to some of the changes, the County League will review them to determine if any of our County League Bylaws will require revisions. During the next two years LWVUS program agenda will include health care reform, global climate change and methods of electing the U.S. President.

My most exciting part of the Convention was the Membership Awards. The **LWV of Escondido** received a **LWVUS AWARD!!** The Certificate states "For having the highest percentage of recruited members converted to local members as of June 30, 2007 for Leagues with 100 or fewer total members".

PS Because of budget constraints, we were unable to print the excellent board members' annual reports in the Voter, but you will find them when you click on Online Reports in the left

hand margin of our website, <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org>. Take a look. It's worth the trip. Make sure you DO NOT include www in the website address.

County League Holds Annual Meeting

By Kay Ragan, Co-President

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County's **Biennial Convention** was held on Saturday, June 7 at Pomerado Hospital. The program featured three panel members addressing health care in the county and throughout California. Panelists included Cheryl Clark, staff writer for the **San Diego Union Tribune**. She covers medicine and health issues including recent extensive research on the status of health care for the uninsured and underinsured in San Diego County. She found that at least one large grant is going unused because the health care facilities have not recruited sufficient participants. If this money is not used it will have to be returned to the state.

Ellen Beck, MD spoke about her work with underserved people suffering from health issues. She is passionate about the need to provide affordable health care for everyone. Dr. Beck directs a national faculty development program called "Addressing the Health Needs of the Underserved." Some 90 faculty from 30 states have attended the program. She is also the faculty founder and advisor to the **Student Run Free Clinic Project at UCSD**. This project is supported by private donations, grants and recently the University has donated money to the program. They serve the most needy.

Parker Duncan, a medical student, rounded out the panel with a discussion of his involvement in the **California Physicians Alliance** and their work for the passage of **SB 840, the California Universal Health Care Act**, authored by Senator Kehoe and supported by the State League. Panelists responded to numerous questions from the audience. Duncan offered to speak with any group or organization about **SB 840**.

There was consensus among the panelists that if all the money being allocated for specific health issues, Medicare, employer-paid insurance plans, and individual payers of insurance was pooled we could provide affordable health care for all. The **League Board** was instructed to lobby the **County Board of Supervisors** to provide funding for health care clinics

throughout the county. The most needy are not being served or they are not being fully served in a timely manner.

The Board Recommended Program - **Regional Fire Protection**, a concurrence with the East County position was approved by a unanimous vote of the delegates.

The Board was also instructed to become more active in monitoring and lobbying the actions of the **Board of Supervisors** relative to issues for which the League has a position, giving particular attention to the budget and to social services. Eddie Cisco, League Board Director for County Government has been a long time observer of the **County Board of Supervisors**.

Donna Bartlett-May, County League Voter Editor
Gail Tullao, County League Webmaster

Regional Committees

- Ramona Salisbury Kiltz, Airport Authority Advisory Committee
- Nan Valerio, Caltrans External Advisory Liaison Committee
- Sylvia Hampton, Board of Directors of San Diegans for Health Care Coverage
- Margaret Schlesinger, Citizen's Advisory Committee for San Dieguito River Valley
- Beryl Flom, Citizens Advisory Committee for Integrated Waste Management
- Shirley Park, San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women
- Rebecca Booth, Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Jan Hartwig, The Education Consortium of San Diego County
- Nancy McCleary, ad hoc organization for the preservation of Rancho Guejito

League Officers

If you are interested in filling any of the vacancies in the following list, please contact Nancy McCleary or Kay Ragan.

Executive Board:

- Nancy McCleary (LWVSD), Co-President
- Kay Ragan (LWVSD), Co-President
- [Vacant] _____, 1st Vice President, Administration
- Sylvia Hampton (LWVSD), Vice President, Health Care Director
- Liz Kruidenier (LWVNCSDC), Vice President, Mental Health Director
- [Vacant] _____, Vice President, Financial Planning
- Anita Reith (LWVESDC), Secretary
- Ellen Gifford (LWVESDC), Treasurer

Directors:

- Sandy Cavanagh (LWVESDC), Director, Arrangements
- Eddie Cisco (LWVESDC), Director, County Government
- Adrienne Schere (LWVSD), Director, Education
- Peggy Dyer (LWVNCSDC), Director, Juvenile Justice
- [Vacant] _____, Director, Natural Resources
- Nan Valerio (LWVSD), Director, Regional Governance
- Elaine Barton (LWVNCSDC), Director, Transportation/SANDAG
- [Vacant] _____, Voters Service
- [Vacant] _____, Social Policy
- Sylvia Hampton, Management Training Advisor

Nominating Committee

- [Vacant] _____, Chair
- _____, Member
- _____, Member

Other Members Active in County League

Off-Board Directors

- Rebecca Booth, Reproductive Choice
- Joyce Joseph, Smart Voter

County League Partnerships

- Emily Wignall, San Diego MamaVote
- Dan Silver, Coalition to Save San Onofre State Park

Excerpts from County League Letter to California Public Utilities Commission – April 7, 2008

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County strongly urges that the CPUC, if it decides that a new transmission line is absolutely necessary, give greater weight to the proposed LEAPS transmission project, which would be shorter, much less expensive, and cost ratepayers less, creating fewer impacts on our environment. We, in addition, strongly oppose all of the proposed transmission line routes that would run through the **Anza Borrego Desert State Park**.

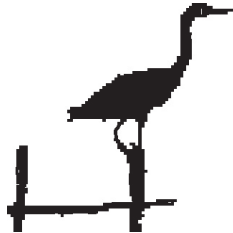
The LWV supports the **State's Energy Action Plan** loading order. Its largest chapter, the League of Women Voters of the City of San Diego, voted to support the current **San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG's) Regional Energy Strategy**, calling for increasing the amount of in-basin energy resources to meet the area's growing peak demand instead of depending on fossil fuel power imported from far away.

The LWV San Diego County urges the CPUC to join its sister state agency, **the California Coastal Commission**, in protecting dedicated state park lands in the **Anza Borrego Desert State Park** on the same grounds that the commission applied to reject a proposed new toll freeway that would have negatively impacted the **San Onofre Beach State Park**. The Commission found that preserving and protecting dedicated state parks is a higher priority than new toll road projects, a position we supported. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)**

**LWV of SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Celebrates County League Day in Carlsbad
Saturday, August 16, 2008 from 10 AM to 2 PM**

at

**HERONS' HOUSE
Peder and Julie Norby's ZERO Energy Home**



High quality green buildings are less expensive to operate, healthier and more comfortable for inhabitants, and more durable. Careful planning and the selection of environmentally superior materials allow green buildings to work with the natural environment rather than against it. Energy-efficient green buildings implement strategies such as air tight exteriors, increased insulation levels, shortened plumbing and duct runs, duct and plumbing insulation, high efficiency mechanical equipment, lighting and appliances, and high performance windows. Whenever possible, green building utilizes "renewable" energy from the sun, wind or ground heat.

Peder Norby wrote, "Julie and I are building our home, reusing an old house on a large lot as a good beginning, perched above the lagoon and Pacific Ocean. Like the Herons, we will walk lightly on earth, using the resources provided to us by nature, in harmony and partnership with our environment, with each other. The Herons' House. Our house."

Peder Norby will tour us through his home, vineyard, and native-plant garden. Then we'll have lunch in the garden. For background information see www.heronshouse.com

PLEASE CARPOOL to 4795 HILLSIDE DRIVE, CARLSBAD

Directions: From 1-5, exit on Tamarack going east. Turn south on Hillside Drive to 4795 Hillside Drive, on the right side of the street. (Thomas Bros. p.1106 or use an on-line map)

\$15 Reservations include a box lunch. Please reserve by August 13, the latest!

Name(s) _____ email or phone _____

Local League _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Circle choice of sandwich: Turkey Roast Beef Tuna Vegetarian

Mail checks to: LWV San Diego County, Ellen Gifford, Treasurer
9037 Calle Del Verde; Santee, CA 92071 619-562-7232

LWV joins the **California State Parks Foundation** in opposing any incursion of the proposed Sunrise transmission project that would for the first time violate existing constitutional and legislative provisions that protect state parks for our children and theirs. Transmission towers are not only unsightly in a desert state park, but we fear that additional lines into the area would only increase our vulnerability to wildfires that periodically decimate our region, as they did last October.

LWV has concerns over the viability of **SDG&E's** long term power purchase contract with **Sterling Energy Systems**, and the whole question of "pie in the sky" renewable contracts that the utilities have signed with contractors that have not met the provisions outlined in those contracts.

LWV thinks that, as part of this proceeding, the **CPUC** should seriously consider viable regional alternatives like the "Smart Energy 2020" proposal put forward by the **Sierra Club**, and recognize the public's preference for increased in-basin generation resources, including more renewables and customer distributed generation, as called for in SANDAG's Regional Energy Strategy.

We note that **SB 1039** (Kehoe) requires the **CPUC** and the local utility exhaust all viable and cost effective energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy and customer distributed generation alternatives within the region before considering new fossil fuel generation and associated transmission projects. LWV believes the **CPUC** should abide by these aforementioned directives.

LWV is concerned that the proposed Sunrise transmission project would require opening our back country to more new roads, increasing the energy footprint and making more sprawl development in the rural areas of our county inevitable.

We urge the Commission to use this proceeding to take the opportunity to be more innovative, earth friendly as well as bottom line oriented for its consumers, instead of allowing **SDG&E** to continue pursuing traditional transmission grid expansion practices focused on short term economic gain for the company.

Respectfully,
Nancy Mc Cleary, President
League of Women Voters of San Diego County

CC: CPUC President Michael Peevey
Administrative Law Judge Steven Weissman

Seven Wonders for a Cool Planet Sierra Club Poll

What do a clothesline, a locally grown tomato, and a microchip have in common? They're all ordinary things that, with widespread use, can have an extraordinary impact in the fight against global warming. With its inspiring vision and simple

explanations of complex processes, Seven Wonders for a Cool Planet sheds light on our relationship to the world we inhabit and offers a powerful template for personal action. These are seven wonderful things that can all add up to a cooler planet.

THE BICYCLE – Riding a bike reduces the five tons of carbon dioxide a year that an average car cranks out. It can get us to think about the larger task at hand – reorienting our communities so that more of us can get around without resorting to internal combustion. It's healthier for us and the planet.

THE CONDOM – The condom gives couples a hand in slowing population growth. The U.S. is a world leader in both unintended pregnancies and per capita carbon emissions. The little old condom can help bring both under control.

THE CEILING FAN – It uses far less energy than an air conditioning unit, and makes air conditioning cool better. With smart designs, better technology, and tools as inspired as a ceiling fan or programmable thermostat, we can keep cooling our bodies, heating our water, and lighting our homes – and put a lot less carbon into the air.

THE CLOTHESLINE – The clothesline keeps on giving in the form of lower energy bills, while, just like other kinds of renewable energy, the free solar power that dries your shirt never runs out.

THE REAL TOMATO – The local real tomato marries fuel efficiency and peak taste. Fossil fuels go into fertilizers, farm equipment, and the trucks that move our produce. Locally grown food and sustainable food options taste superior, they improve our food mileage and contribute to a low-carbon diet.

THE LIBRARY BOOK – The book you borrow is the book that doesn't require cutting carbon-saving trees. Other reused items and materials have an equally powerful impact on conserving resources and curbing the massive amounts of carbon produced by manufacturing.

THE MICROCHIP – Revolutionizing the way we deliver and manage words and data to the point that books and other materials like bricks and mortar are becoming obsolete. The systems that microchips inhabit help us cut down on commuting, and creating an economy built around information more than fuel-consuming stuff.

Poll Results to date on which is the coolest of them all:

The Bicycle	35%
The Condom	20%
The Ceiling Fan	3%
The Clothesline	16%
The Real Tomato	9%
The Library Book	6%
The Microchip	8%

2,425 people responded to this survey.