



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 72 No. 9

November– December 2008

“Time to ‘Get Real’: Addressing THE ECONOMY, Greed, Taxes, Military Spending, Private Contractors, RECESSION, and MORE!”

“Lunch with League”: Wednesday, November 18, 2008

Columnist and Author James Goldsborough, Economist Marnie Cox, and Community Activist Ray Lutz speak out at our November **Lunch with League** on their research and views concerning what’s going on with our government, what’s happening with our economy and taxes, who’s getting the lion’s share of taxpayers’ money, what’s feeding the greedy, who’s supporting excessive national spending, what’s the impact of the downward economic spiral on San Diego’s economic sectors, what’s pushing our military jobs into private contractors’ hands, who’s on the list of private military contractors in San Diego, and what’s to be done about these crises and issues?

Please join League of Women Voters of San Diego as we present James Goldsborough, Marnie Cox of SANDAG, and Ray Lutz to answer these timely questions at our **Lunch with League**: Tuesday, November 18, 11:30 am, at Tom Ham’s Lighthouse Restaurant on Harbor Island. The program commences at 12:10 and will conclude at approximately 1:30 pm. See the enclosed flyer for information on how to make your reservation.

Unit meetings in November will address the topics posed in the questions above; other issues raised center on the impact of military spending on San Diego’s economy. For example, according to Frida Berrigan in the *Baltimore Chronicle & Sentinel*, the taxpayers’ bill since 2001 for our powerful military machine totals more than \$3.8 trillion—plus another \$900 billion for “actually flexing it in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.” How has this money been spent? Are “we the people” blindly supporting our government’s continuation of this bloated military spending? How much of the military budget allocated for the training of personnel and support services has been outsourced to the private sector?

How much money is budgeted for the care of wounded veterans?

Also to be discussed are the following issues: Is San Diego still a military town or has it become a private contractors’ town? What are the major economic sectors of San Diego? What are suggestions for directing San Diego toward greater prosperity?

---Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

Save the Date - Holiday Get-Together

The Holiday Party is going through some transition this year, but you should mark your calendars for Thursday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. The Board has decided not to have a silent auction, but we will have some good entertainment. Dinner will be Potluck with the Board members providing the main course and drinks including wine and beer. Members should bring a dish to share as follows:

- * Dessert - last name beginning with A-G
- * Salad - last name beginning with H-N
- * Bread/Rolls - last name beginning with O-S
- * Hors D’oeuvres - last name beginning with T-Z

There will be no charge.

There will be further details in a separate mailing

This will be a time of renewing League friendships and seeing good friends. Spouses and friends are most welcome. We encourage you to call a Leaguer whom you haven’t seen in a while and bring them with you. Please be sure that those who don’t drive at night have a ride.

---Beryl Flom, Vice President

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June 2008 - July 2009
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San Diego Voter

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

Email: lwvsd@san.rr.com
Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
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Letter from Co-President Norma Damashek

It's probably impossible to measure the full impact of the League of Women Voters on the outcome of an election. But it's crystal clear that our Pros & Cons ballot analyses, candidate forums, positions on propositions, and get-out-the-vote activities play a pivotal role in helping voters understand the issues and make up their minds on election day.

Here's a snapshot of some of our election-related activities during the hectic months leading up to election day. Our League members:

- * Distributed 3,000 Pros & Cons, 1100 Easy Voters (English, Spanish, Vietnamese)
- * Prepared 10 speakers for ballot Proposition talks (Pros & Cons) to over 60 groups
- * Worked the phones on the Channel 10 Hotline on election eve and election day
- * Served as moderator, timer, and screener of questions for community forums
- * Registered Voters at the Girls' Think Tank Community Picnic and ten other venues
- * Sponsored a panel for U.S. Constitution Day
- * Participated in a press conference on Prop 11/State Redistricting
- * Co-sponsored speaker training for *Yes on Prop 11*
- * Created and distributed LWVSD Recommends (along with LWV Recommends)
- * Wrote and distributed 3,000 Election Extras (our local Pros & Cons)
- * Submitted a letter to the editor in opposition to Prop B/10th Ave. Terminal measure
- * Co-sponsored the CalPIRG Forum supporting Prop 1A/High-speed train
- * Held a Lunch w/League session on Prop A/County Fire Protection
- * Co-sponsored a panel with the Registrar of Voters on the election process
- * Recruited families for Channel 10 post-debate programs
- * Provided voter information to callers contacting our League office
- * Participated in student education on the importance of voting
- * Anne Hoiberg spoke to two groups about the importance of free and fair elections, sharing her experiences as an international elections supervisor in Bosnia, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Belarus
- * Sent out the fattest VOTER of the year. We want to say a million thanks to the hard-working group who spent 6 1/2 hours over two days putting it together.

And now it's time to rally the troops again -- not for more work -- but for some warm and friendly socializing at our December Holiday Party get-together. That's the time to eat, drink, and be as merry as only Leaguers can be. I'm looking forward to relaxing and enjoying the evening with all of you.

---Norma Damashek, Co-President

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.

Ending Violence against Women

In late February, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called for the end of violence against women, establishing timelines for reviews of progress and an accomplishment endpoint of 2015. The initiation of his UNITE Campaign coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman's "Say No to Violence" Campaign to end violence against women, and the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence. We are urged to join the activities to stop (finally) all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic (e.g., battering, female genital mutilation, forced marriage), community (e.g., rape, kidnapping, trafficking), and national/international (e.g., victims of armed conflict, torture, rape as a war crime).

The annual International Day to End Violence against Women on Tuesday, November 25, will be commemorated with a program, "A Culture of Violence? Encouraging Dialogue between Men and Women," from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in San Diego (contact Anne at 619-223-8074 or ahoiberg@aol.com for location). This date commences the sixteen days of gender activism that ends on December 10, Human Rights Day.

An Email from Nicole Kidman

**How exciting to receive Nicole Kidman's email,
Inviting me, "Dear Anne," to sign a petition,
Calling for the end of violence against women.**

**With my signature, Ted Turner pays UNIFEM \$1,
His UN Foundation fueling Nicole's bandwagon.
Both implore: It's now or never to say no to violence.**

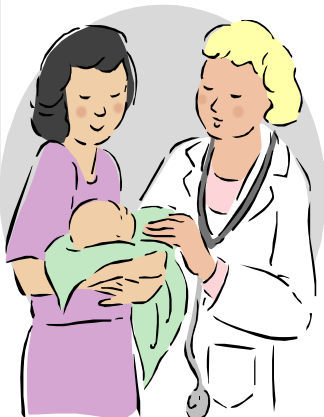
**"Count me in," I sign, while saving Nicole's address,
With my new friends, Nicole and Ted, and global others.
All together we will make violence-against-women history.**

---Anne Hoiberg, Co-Chair,
International Relations Committee

Healthcare Committee Forming

In preparation for Units this spring and Luncheons and Units next year, I would like to form a sub-committee of the Program Committee to look at healthcare issues, zero in on topics of interest to our members, and learn more about them for presentations later on. If you would like to help with this project, please contact me. We will meet monthly, at your convenience, starting in January through the spring of 2009.

--- Beryl Flom, VP/Program
858-459-4406 or
edflom@sbcglobal.net



Are you good with numbers?

Do you know or would you like to learn how to use QuickBooks? Then you could be just the person we need! Our Treasurer will be leaving so we need a replacement to begin training now. If you think you could help us or you would like to be trained by our Treasurer before she leaves us, then please contact me.

---Mary Jean Word,
Nominating Committee chair
mjmwoeb2@sbcglobal.net or call 858-679-7537

“Storybank”

Another in our series of League reminiscences that might inspire you and your friends to devote more of your life to the League of Women Voters. This month we hear from Shirley Larson.

Back in 1995, the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which finally granted women the right to vote, was being celebrated all over the nation. After my younger daughter Diane marched with Seattle Leaguers in a parade that August to celebrate the 75-year anniversary, she became a member of League.

Then both of my daughters, Linda and Diane, learned that Iowa State University planned to renovate an 1893 Queen Anne revival style building and rename it after Carrie Chapman Catt with an October dedication ceremony. Catt was an Iowa State alumna who was a leader in the women’s suffrage movement and the founder of the League of Women Voters. (She was so dedicated to the cause of women’s suffrage that she sold her sapphires to finance a suffrage campaign.) My daughters were excited about attending the dedication events, so we three--me from San Diego, Diane from Seattle, and Linda from Montana--set out together on a road trip to the Midwest.

After visiting relatives in Wisconsin, we headed to Iowa for the October 6th celebration. The plaza in front of Carrie Chapman Catt Hall had been paved with bricks carved with names of “heroines”: women who, as role models, made an impact on families, communities, and society as mothers, teachers, wives, scientists, friends and activists, including suffragists. Imagine my surprise to find my name on the Plaza of Heroines with thousands of others. <http://www.las.iastate.edu/kiosk/index.shtml> My daughters had honored me with a brick with my name! They had sent in a statement about why they were honoring me, plus my photo and a bio.

When we—and 1,289 other people!—attended the dedication luncheon, we learned that, as of that date, \$400,000 had been raised from selling bricks (@ \$100 each). We also heard about the university’s Legacy of Heroines Scholarship Campaign. As part of the dedication activities, we viewed a photo exhibit of Women in Politics at the Women’s Center.

After all of the inspiration, I decided that the moment I got home, I was going to join League. I attended my first unit meeting on February 14th, 1996 and decided to jump in with both feet. I started by observing Park and Recreation meetings, then City Council meetings--and just kept going. League is now a major part of my life and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

---Shirley Larson

Did you enjoy reading Shirley's reflections of the importance of the League in her life? I certainly did! What part has the League played in yours? Please share your reflections with us by sending your "Storybank" to the Voter editor at frose@mail.sdsu.edu. We'll be looking for it.

---Jeanne Brown, VP/Administration

Happy Holidays to all!

There will be no Voter in December. The Deadline for the January Voter will be December 15.



The “New” La Jolla Unit

I volunteered to be Unit Chairperson of LWV’s La Jolla Unit this year. Since our attendance had so drastically dwindled last year, the unit was about to disband. My goal was to call and encourage more people to come to LWV meetings that are so stimulating and informative.

Jim Walker is Head of the Riford Center, La Jolla's Active Adult Center, 6811 La Jolla Blvd, which has various programs (several Fitness, Social, Learning and Education classes). I met with Jim a few months ago and he was interested in having a joint meeting to encourage attendance to the La Jolla League of Women Voters. We thought that a joint meeting of the Center and the LWV (Pros and Cons of the Ballot Propositions) would be a great first meeting. He said that the Riford Center could host it since there were several size rooms.

The Center reached out to other groups in the community, put up information, and had a lead announcement featured in its October Newsletter: “At the Riford, League of Women Voters - Ballot Propositions Explained”. We had an announcement in our “LWV Voter”.

I called to find out how many people might be attending in order to bring enough fliers and brochures and sign in sheets. He told me about 100!!! They would have the meeting in the large meeting room to hold that many and have a podium and mike. They set up a long table for the information and many people took materials. There were some men that I welcomed, too. (I said they could join, but we would not change the name.)

We will have the next meeting in a smaller room at The Riford Center on our usual 2nd Tuesday, Nov. 11th, 9:30-11:30 AM. (The library is not open since it is Veteran's Day). So it seems our combined efforts will benefit everyone. I hope that we will get some new members and the La Jolla Unit will grow to be healthy and strong again thanks to these joint efforts in our community.

---Sherry Bloom, La Jolla Unit Chair

Human Rights Program

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice has scheduled a program, “What and Where are Human Rights?” to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Tuesday, December 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. An appearance of “Eleanor Roosevelt,” who headed the Human Rights Commission that led to the creation and subsequent adoption of the UDHR on December 10, 1948, introduces the audience to the importance of this universally accepted document. A panel of human rights experts will discuss the UDHR, including: Marjorie Cohn, Esq.; William Aceves, Esq.; and Dustin Sharp, Esq. League of Women Voters’ International Relations Committee will be one of the sponsors. There is no charge for this event. RSVP: 619-223-8074 or ahoiberg@aol.com



November Unit Meetings: Addressing the **ECONOMY**, Military Spending and more!

Note our Newest Unit ---Coronado Unit

Saturday, Nov. 8 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Vergie Wright (619) 264-6735
Monday, Nov. 10 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Rm. 2nd Fl. 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Drive San Diego, CA 92128	Bev Wilson (858) 592-9664 Irene Dunny (858) 204-6766
Monday, Nov. 10 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, Nov. 11 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla (Note Location change.)	Riford Senior Center 6811 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA 92037	Sherry Bloom 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Wednesday, Nov. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd. Bldg., 100, Ste. 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230 Gloria Christman (858) 273-0590
Wednesday, Nov. 12 1:00 - 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Joyce Janette (858) 278-7855 Mary McDonald (619) 542-1438
Wednesday, Nov. 12 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Club House 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Nov. 13 1:30 - 3:30 PM	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Dorothy Joy (619) 660- 9265
Monday, Nov. 17 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Coronado Unit New Unit!	Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue (Community Room) Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy (619) 437-4597

New York! New York! U.N.! U.N.!

All League members are invited to participate in the annual session (the 53rd) of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 2 - 13, 2009, to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This year, the focus is on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS." There is no charge to participate; your costs would be for airfare, hotel (shared rooms), theatre, and food (inexpensive at the U.N.). If you wish to attend the session for any or all of those days, please let me know at ahoiberg@aol.com or 619-223-8074.

---Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

Membership

**Currently the LWVSD has 495 members!
Please welcome these new members.**

NAME	ZIP
Jean L. Covington	91977
Dora Crouch	92124
Ina Hines	92107
Rueben Onstad	92109
Barney Rickett 2nd household member	92037
Judith Rowland	92110
Rhoda A. Slifka	92037
Mary Sternad	92178
Jewel Hooper	92114

LWVSD Calendar — November and December

November			
11/1	Sat.	8:00 am	Visit to the Registrar of Voters Office, 5201 Ruffin Road, 92123
11/4	Tues.		<i>Election Day</i>
11/5	Wed.	6:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/6	Thurs.	9:30 am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
11/7	Fri.	10:30 am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
Nov. 8-17			UNITS - Addressing the Economy, Military Spending and More.
11/11	Tues.		<i>Veterans Day</i>
11/14	Fri.	9:30 am	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
11/17	Mon.	10:00 am	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/18	Tues.	11:30am	Lunch with League: “Addressing the ECONOMY, Military Spending and More”, Tom Ham’s Restaurant, Harbor Island
11/19	Wed.	9:30 am	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/21	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
11/25	Tues.	5:30 pm	“Ending Violence Against Women” - Contact Anne Hoiberg for location.
11/27	Thurs.		<i>Thanksgiving</i>
December			
12/2	Tues.	6:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
12/5	Fri.	10:30 am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
12/10	Wed.	7:00 pm	Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Joan B. Kroc Center for Peace & Justice, USD
12/11	Thurs.	6:00 pm	Holiday Party - location to be announced
12/17	Wed.	9:30 am	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
12/19	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
12/19	Fri.	12:00 noon	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
12/21	Sun.		Hanukkah begins at sundown
12/25	Thurs.		Christmas



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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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4901 MORENA BLVD.
BLDG. 100, SUITE 104
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