

The ILO represents the Leagues of San Diego City and North County.

Fall 2012

LWVC President Visits San Diego



LWV Presidents

- Mary Crowley, North County,*
- Donna Bartlett-May, San Diego*
- Jenny Waggoner, LWVC*
- Roni Seay, San Diego County ILO*
- Jeanne Brown, San Diego*

In September, League of Women Voters of California President Jenny Waggoner visited with League Board members from around the county at the home of ILO Treasurer Nancy Hand. Board members had an informal opportunity to discuss League issues, structure, and opportunities with our State League President. She is a delightful and knowledgeable young woman. Just the kind of under-forty-year-old that our membership chairs want to recruit.

Much of the time was spent hearing about League from a statewide perspective. Jenny told us how the LWVC Board decides on

which initiatives to support—an exhaustive analysis including expert input from League specialists. She spoke about the importance of collaborating with other organizations. Jenny promotes the use of up-to-the-minute technology to reach young people. We must become comfortable with new ideas and technology. We need to reach out and spread the word about League. (Much to my dismay, I have recently talked to League members who have not even tried SmartVoter.org, not to mention Facebook or Twitter.)

It was a good chance for us San Diegans to highlight our League achievements and to see our Leagues from the broader perspective of being part of a much larger complex organization. — Roni Seay, President, LWVSDC

Vote with the League

One of the hardest things about being a League President is adhering to nonpartisanship—not supporting or opposing any political party or candidate for political office. Fortunately I can promote LWVC positions on State ballot measures. Tell all your contacts how to "Vote with the League."
 YES on 30 - Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding.

YES on 34 - (end) Death Penalty.
 YES on 40 - Redistricting. State Senate Districts
 NO on 31 - State Budget. State and Local Government
 NO on 32 - Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction. Contributions to Candidates.
 League is neutral on 38 and 39. For in-depth action information, go to www.ca.lwv.org.

SmartVoter®

At the end of this presidential election year, our local Leagues will be evaluating many Voter Service successes due to their outreach to voters. Our members can be proud of the role the League's election website, SmartVoter.org, played in the 2012 elections. In June and November, all candidates were given an equal opportunity to place their campaign messages, in their own words, on our site. SmartVoter is one of the very few free ways office seekers are able to reach many of their constituents. Hundreds of candidates used the site. As in the past, all state and local propositions were included on SmartVoter, with numerous links to nonpartisan information to help voters make their own informed choices.

We do not yet have statistics on numbers of voters pulling up their personal ballots on SmartVoter, at their own convenience, to find information they need located in one place. Although the emphasis on early voting has spread out voter traffic somewhat, the busiest time for voter use and feedback on the site are the final days before an election.

The site is unique in the depth of its coverage of unbiased election information because hundreds of League volunteers devote many hours to make it work. For election cycles here, a team of members from all parts of San Diego County continue to give much time and effort year after year. And many more of our members pitch in shortly before an election to help coax candidates to participate.

The SmartVoter site works as well as League members understand and support it. We continue to emphasize that members need to tell other people about everything the website offers. Once people find the site they return to it election after election. We are the second largest county in California, and our SmartVoter site sets a shining example in the state. All of us need to take responsibility for understanding why this project is important to the League of Women Voters. It is expected we will see an updated look and enhancements to SmartVoter by the 2014 elections that will help us compete with the explosion of election information choices now in the Internet. As more and more people look for information online, we want the League to remain an outstanding option for people to use and respect.

— Joyce Joseph, SmartVoter Coordinator, San Diego County

On October 19, Peggy Dornish, Roni Seay, and Nan Valerio participated in SANDAG's public workshop on "Creating an Ambitious Regional Plan." It was an opportunity to promote ILO positions and learn how SANDAG and others want to address the community's most critical issues for years to come.

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San Diego County ILO
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LWVSD.....Jeanne Brown, Donna Bartlett-May
.....(Co-Presidents)

The ILO Board of Directors meets on the first Friday of the month and all members are welcome to attend.

To contact ILO call Roni Seay at 858-926-8800 or RoSeay@aol.com
website address <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org/>

Fake Abortion Clinics Frighten and Mislead Women

The Planned Parenthood Friends September luncheon featured pro-choice attorney/advocate Mattheus Stephens, founding partner of the San Diego law firm Progressive Law Group. His message was about exposing **“Crisis Pregnancy Centers” run by anti-abortion organizations**. They attract pregnant women and girls who are considering abortion by offering free pregnancy tests. They are not licensed health centers. Their goal is to prevent any abortions. They mislead women to believe abortion is riskier than childbirth. There are 16 such centers in San Diego County. They are careful to use language to stay within the law but still mislead.



When you GOOGLE “abortion,” one of the first sites to pop up will be one of these fake clinics with a picture that looks like a doctor or nurse. But once the woman enters the center she is given anti-abortion messages to convince her it is physically and emotionally damaging to have an abortion. The conversation is designed to get her to become emotionally attached to the pregnancy regardless of her situation.

According the American Psychological Association, abortion is not a psychological risk:

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“The best scientific evidence published indicates that among adult women who have an unplanned pregnancy the relative risk of mental health problems is no greater if they have a single elective, first-trimester abortion than if they deliver that pregnancy.....”

If the woman is informed and supported in whatever decision she makes, she will do better than if she is made to feel fear and guilt.

Fake clinics claim success in leading women and girls to carry to term about 15 to 20% of cases. Once the woman gives birth, the center works to keep her on the anti-abortion rolls and to make her an anti-abortion voter and/or activist. Guilt and ignorance of the facts are their most powerful tools.

According to the Columbia University School of Public

Health report, “Overview of Abortion in the United States,” developed by Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health (PRCH) and the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) in January 2003, the facts about abortion are:

- Unintended pregnancy and abortion are common among all groups of women.
- Almost half of all pregnancies are unintended and almost half of unintended pregnancies end in abortion.
- In 2000, 1.31 million pregnancies were terminated by abortion.
- 2.1% of all women aged 15–44 had an abortion in 2000.
- Abortion is one of the most common surgical procedures in the United States.
- Almost 90% of abortions are performed in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- More than half of abortions are performed before 9 weeks after the last menstrual period, or within 5 weeks of the first missed period.
- Fewer than 2% of abortions are performed after 20 weeks.
- The risk of death when a pregnancy is continued to birth is about 11 times as great as the risk of death from induced abortion.
- Each year, about 10 women die from induced abortion, compared with about 260 who die from pregnancy and childbirth.

The LWV deals in facts, not guilt, trickery and ignorance. We trust women to make their own healthcare choices in light of information and consultation with their doctors and loved ones. There needs to be a strong effort to educate women about the risks of fake clinics in San Diego County.

— Sylvia Hampton

LWV Director Reproductive Choice

Gloria Penner and the League



The League of Women Voters of San Diego honored Gloria Penner for her civic service in 2003 and established the Gloria Penner Award for Civic Service to honor deserving community leaders. LWVSD held annual award dinners in her name every year for the following four years.

Gloria, KPBS and the League had worked together for many years on projects of community interest. In 2000 Gloria moderated a highly successful Congressional candidates' forum on health care for the County League and the Coalition for Quality Health Care. In 2001 LWV joined forces with KPBS to produce a four-part KPBS radio series "Health Care Roundtable." The League depended on her non-partisanship and eagerness to contribute her skills and know-how for voter education to the San Diego community.

— Sylvia Hampton

Quotes from LWV members following the news of her death:

"I still remember when I was the new president of LWV North Coast, calling her up and asking her to be our moderator for our September 1995 Kick-off meeting. She answered the phone and said yes. She went on to give me tips on putting together the program on Affirmative Action. It was a first class program and the place was packed. Gloria was a great KPBS leader." Rosie Stephens. Portland OR, Past President, LWV North Coast San Diego.

"She was certainly an institution in S.D. An independent thinker and courageous in her stands." Jonnie Stahl, San Mateo, CA, Past President, LWVSD.

"She was an excellent interviewer with a real passion and curiosity for politics and she wasn't afraid to ask tough questions. She will be dearly missed." Ann Clark, San Diego. Past President, LWV SD County.



Jody Tadder Kay Regan Sylvia Hampton Beryl Flom

The Voter is published quarterly: Fall/October, Winter/February, Spring/April, and Midsummer. 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.