

LWW

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

August 2014

Volume 79, No. 1



LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

Thursdays at 11:30 am at Tom Ham's Lighthouse, 2150 Harbor Island Dr.

Mark your calendars now for the following programs:

September 18 ~ "Climate Change"

October 16 ~ "Drones: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"

February 19 ~ "The Rising Costs of Higher Education"

March 19 ~ "Campaign Finance Reform"

April 16 ~ "Schools and Infrastructure Issues"

\$30 in advance for members

\$35 for non-members

Register at: www.lwvsandiego.org



League of Women Voters of San Diego County (ILO)

COUNTY LEAGUE DAY

Friday, August 22, 2014, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

New County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa

5510 Overland Ave (at Farnham St), San Diego CA 92123

Host: County Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Honored Guest and Principal Speaker: Helen Hutchison

Interim President, LWVC California

"Advocacy: The League Way"

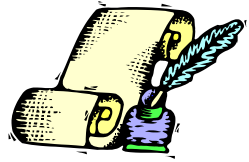
Lunch at the Center. Registration \$25 includes box lunch.

Meeting is followed by tour of the Office of the County Registrar of Voters.

Send check to 'LWVSDC,' Treasurer, Barb Lorenzen, 1192 Tres Ninos Corte, Vista CA 92084

Deadline: August 19. Information: Sylvia at 858-208-6572 (cell)

President's Message



After returning from the State Council meeting in May and the National Convention in June, I prepared lengthy reports. If anyone would like to receive a copy of either, please let me know.

The State Council in the past has been designed for presidents or incoming presidents. This year's program was clearly a call for member training. Jeanne Brown and I represented our League. Jeanne had the opportunity to advertise the State Convention scheduled for San Diego on May 15-17, 2015. She did a great job encouraging attendance. The tourism bureau would have been proud of her.

This year's Council program was a call for member training. The attendees included a range of experienced Leaguers and newer members. That trend was also evident at the National Convention.

In San Jose there were leadership development workshops, training in Conversation Mapping and Ignite Talks.

Conversation Mapping allows a group of people (10-20) to take an issue/topic and silently make written comments relative to the topic. The group continues to respond with comments until the ideas have been exhausted. The central themes are then identified at a later time and reported. The follow-up activity is the most time consuming but can be done by a computer software program.

The Ignite Talks were five minute presentations with PowerPoint presentations in the background. The focus is to get the message **across in a very short time...less time for boring the audience.**

The National Convention in Dallas featured training tracks making it possible for attendees to choose the track most pertinent to their interest or assignment. We are discussing this program plan for the State Convention.

The plenary sessions were lively and afforded attendees the opportunity to address topics about which they had much passion. The delegates supported an ambitious study and position update agenda along with several areas of emphasis for the next two years. (See Studies/Updates and Areas of Emphasis article in this Voter.)

Best,

Kay Ragan. President, kragand@cox.net

League of Women Voters
 San Diego 2014-2015
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Help build a memorial to those who endured harsh imprisonment to secure voting rights for American women.
www.suffragistmemorial.org/

Unit Meetings will resume in September.

Unit Council will meet Thursday, September 4.

LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ August

Fri	Aug 1	9 am	LWVSD Board Retreat, Dolores Nelson's home
Mon	Aug 11	11 am	Membership Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111`
Fri	Aug 15	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Wed	Aug 20	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Office of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd., SD 92111, 301

Special Event ~ August

Fri, Aug 22	County League Day ~ see front page.
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Save the Dates! Lunch with the League Series

Third Thursdays: September 18, October 16, February 19, March 19, April 16 (see front page)

Save the Date! Wednesday, October 22, 5-8 pm

LWVSD Education Committee Presents Premier Documentary Movie Event

"The Raising of America - Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation" will be shown Wednesday, October 22, in the auditorium of the Central Library preceded by a reception with food provided by the Culinary Institute. The movie will be followed by a panel discussion and conclude with a desert reception. This free event is cosponsored by LWVSD, the Library, SD Regional Chamber of Commerce, SD County Child Care and Development Planning Council, the YMCA Childcare Resource Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the 9th District PTA.

Mark Your Calendars

May 15-17, 2015	LWVC Convention in San Diego! Watch for more information. You can help.
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Honorees at our Annual Meeting



(left) Debbie Blum was presented with a special chef's hat by Jeanne Brown as thanks for generously donating baked goodies for meetings



(right) Jewell Hooper (foreground) was honored for her work with voter registration and political activism (here with Sue Rogers)

Studies / Updates / Areas for Emphasis

We have many opportunities for members to be involved during the next two years. A national study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including a constitutional convention, was recommended by the membership and approved at the convention. A review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of 30 years of change since the Westgate reforms and a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress were also approved. Committees at the national level are already working on these issues. Local Leagues need to be ready to pick up the assignment when the study material is available.

The State Study on Higher Education — funding sources and allocations and student debt and affordability — is underway. The statewide committee will hold its first meeting in early August. A local member, Dr. Ann Johns, is a member of the committee. We need a local committee. If you would like to serve on the committee, please let Kay Ragan (kragand@cox.net) know of your interest.

The County Study on Local Agriculture is chaired by Peggy Dornish, and anyone who is interested in serving on the committee will have the opportunity to visit farm sites. If you want to be involved, contact Peggy at mhdornish@mac.com.

The County Position Update of the Behavioral Health

Position committee is forming. Liz Kruidenier is the co-chair. Please contact Liz (lizkruidenier@gmail.com) if you would like to work with the committee.

At the local level, Bev Wilson is chairing a task force to look at compassionate end-of-life issues. Please contact Bev at bjwillson@san.rr.com if you would like to serve on the task force.

Issues for emphasis include the following:

Local

- Open government/Sunshine Week
- Child abuse and neglect/poverty
- Education infrastructure deficit

State

- Campaign finance
- Gun safety
- Affordable housing
- Education

National

- Voting rights
- Global warming
- Drones

The Program Committee plans Unit and Luncheon programs around these issues.

~ Kay Ragan, President



Big Bay Shuttle

Big Bay Shuttle kicked off Memorial Day and is operated by Ace Parking. The shuttle is a convenient and low cost way to get from downtown San Diego to attractions along the Embarcadero and Harbor Island. The shuttle runs through Labor Day.



Five ADA (disabled) equipped shuttles running on CNG fuel will loop from the Hilton San Diego Bayfront to the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, making stops along the way including Maritime Museum, Broadway and Navy Piers, The Fish Market, Seaport Village, Marriot Marques and Marina, Wyndham San Diego Bayside and the Grand Hyatt.

Shuttles will operate 7 days a week from 10 AM to 8 PM Monday - Thursday and 10 AM to 10 PM Friday and Saturday. Fair is \$3/rider for an all day pass. Tickets can be purchased at any of the stops or on board the shuttle.

Excerpted from Cathy O'Leary Carey's Waterfront Report to the July Meeting of the Public Policy Committee.

State Legislative Committee Work

How many times have you said or **heard others say**, “**Why doesn’t the League take a position on a certain piece of legislation?**” **There are several reasons**, primarily that we do not have enough volunteers to devote the time and effort for the research and study required to present an argument. Also, we do not have positions on all issues, and very importantly, we have only one staff member in Sacramento to work on legislation, Trudy Schaffer.



Having said all that, there is an active statewide committee, now chaired by Joanna Leavitt and formerly chaired by Helen Hutchinson. The committee is dependent upon state appointed chairs and legislative consultants to analyze proposed legislation. Both Penny Adler and Adrienne Schere are Early Childhood legislative consultants. They are responsible for the analysis of bills related to ECE. Kay Ragan is a state Board member and voting member of the committee.

The committee has acted on the following bills in the current legislative session:

- 1645 – Sentences for misdemeanor offenses - Support

This measure would change certain non-violent property and drug offenses that are currently wobblers or felonies to be misdemeanors, with a maximum penalty for less than one year in county jail.

- 1541 – Health insurance rate regulation – No Position
- 1606 – Medical injury compensation – No Position

It is not clear how the reform being proposed could be interpreted as a cost control and therefore difficult to apply our US position to the measure.

- AB 2135 (Ting) Affordable housing- Support

Strengthen existing law regarding right of refusal for surplus land for affordable housing.

- Prop 44 ACAX2 1 (Perez) Budget Stabilization Account – Support

If a school district proposes to adopt a budget with a

reserve that exceeds the state minimum required reserve level, the district, as part of its required public hearing on the budget, must identify the proposed reserve levels relative to the state required minimum and identify the reasons necessitating reserves in excess of required amounts.

- SB 1379 (Huff) Ethics reform - Support if Amended

The bill would prohibit a candidate for any elective office, **or the candidate’s controlled committees, from** making a contribution to another candidate for elective office or a committee controlled by a candidate that is primarily formed to support or oppose one or more ballot measures in excess of the contribution limit established for candidates for elective state office.

Recommendations on the November ballot measures:

- Proposition 43: Oppose

The LWVC opposes the water bond as it currently appears on the ballot. It is being watched to see the legislature does to replace this measure.

- Proposition 47: Support

The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime and therefore, supports this measure.

~ Kay Ragan, President

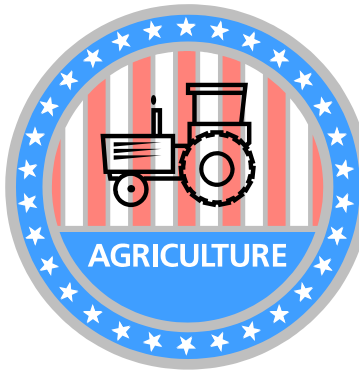
Unit Chairs ~ Hail and Farewell

We welcome new Unit Chairs Terri Prevost and Pearl Hayes who join Alice McCauley, Debbie Blum, Marietta Lassaline, Sue Rogers, Claire Weiner, Betsy Stevens, Mariette Kobrak, Catherine Stoll, Nancy Witt, and Shirley Walkoe. Thank you to retiring Barbara Evje and Joan Dahlin for their efforts

~ Carole Porter, Unit Coordinator

Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policies

as announced by the National Board May 2014



The League believes that government should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

Subsidized crop yield insurance should be linked to implementation of best management practices with the subsidy denied for marginal or environmentally sensitive land. The premium subsidy for crop insurance should be available for a wide range of crops, such as fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Government should limit the amount of the premium subsidy received by larger farms.

The League supports policies that increase competition in agricultural markets. Antitrust laws should be enforced to ensure competitive agricultural markets. Alternative marketing systems such as regional hub markets, farmers' markets and farmer cooperatives should be promoted.

Clean air and water regulations should apply to all animal and aquaculture production and processing facilities and not just to the very large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Such regulations should be designed in a manner that takes into account environmentally sound technologies and the scale of the operation being regulated. Small size operations should not be granted automatic exemption from regulation.

The League believes that government regulatory agencies dealing with animal and aquaculture production should have adequate authority and funding to 1) enforce regulations and 2) gather information that supports monitoring the impacts of all animal feeding and aquaculture operations on human and animal health and the environment.

Government should fund basic research related to agriculture. Government funded research should also address the impact of new technologies on human health and the environment prior to widespread adoption of products developed with such technologies. Assessment of products developed with new technologies should be conducted as transparently as possible,

while respecting intellectual property rights. Research should be funded to support the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems, such as seed banking and promoting and preserving genetic diversity.

To provide adequate safety of our food supply, government should:

- ◆ Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- ◆ Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market;
- ◆ Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- ◆ Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- ◆ Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- ◆ Require post-market monitoring of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquaculture production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;

(continued on following page)

Public Policy Committee Visited by Parks and Recreation Manager

Mike Ruiz, District Manager of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, met with the Public Policy Committee and provided an update on the Centennial Celebration in Balboa Park. Ruiz was employed by Park Services approximately ten years ago and only recently returned. He is heading up celebration activities and invited the League and any other community group to submit ideas and more importantly, offer to participate in the implementation of projects.



with a plant design, get it approved by the landscape department and care for the space for one year. Groups will have the opportunity to continue their sponsorship beyond the year.

An example is a lighting project that is currently being done whereby buildings and the lily pond can be lighted. The change-over of lights with LED bulbs will result in cost savings over the years, plus more efficient lighting. Funds for this project are coming from multiple groups.

A major event with tours available on May 9, 2015, will be hosted by a horticulture group, such as the Rose Society. The first designated number of mothers will be presented with a centennial rose plant.

There are over 100 horticulture groups in the park, related to the fact that the 1915 theme was “The Garden Fair.” This theme has been adapted into the 100th anniversary celebration with an “adopt a plot” concept. Organizations like the League are invited to adopt a designated space, submit a plant design, get the design approved by the landscape director; pay for the plants and whatever tools that might be needed to plant and care for the space for a year. The plot would have a sign with our name.

Twilight Nights in the Park have been going on for 35 years with free concerts. Next year the event will be expanded. December Nights on December 4 and 5 will be the kick-off for the celebration with a major event on December 31.

Ruiz noted that he does not have a Centennial Celebration budget. **He and the mayor’s office are hopeful that** many volunteers will come forward to work and that some organizations will be able to provide funding for larger projects. He takes heart in the fact that most of the work on the opening in 1915 was done by volunteers.

The Board will consider this project at the August 1 retreat. We need five members willing to come up

Community members will eventually find the year-long calendar of event posted on the Balboa Park website. <http://www.balboapark.org/>

~ Kay Ragan, Public Policy Committee



(continued from preceding page)

- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

The League supports government developing and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists. The League supports consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology.

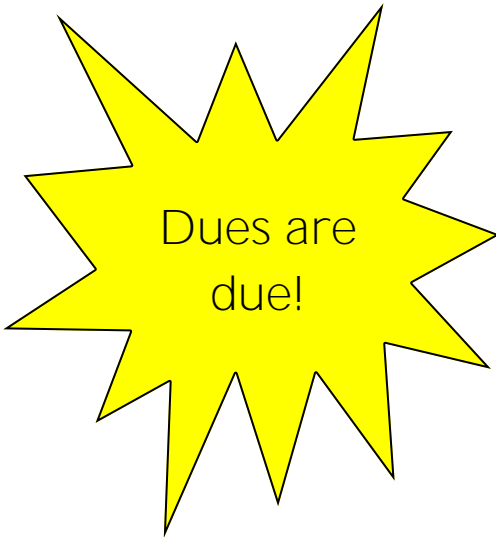
~ Jeanne Brown, Inter-League Agricultural Study Committee



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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.

Join the League

Individual Membership \$65 Additional Household Memberships \$35

I am unable to join at this time, but I am enclosing a tax-deductible* contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 Other _____ Please contact me with more information

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