

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

March 2015

Volume 79, No. 7

March Unit Meetings to Focus on Financing of Elections and How to Make an Impact



We've just "celebrated" the 5th anniversary of the Citizens United decision. The fundraising machine run by the Koch brothers has said they intend to raise and spend more money on the upcoming presidential election than the two major parties. Is our government for sale?

Is there anything that can be done about it? LWV is doing what it can, but our position needs to be updated. **The National League's Money in Politics Committee** (our own Jeanne Brown is a member of the committee) has compiled a reading list that is posted on the national website to become more informed. There is also a national Constitutional Amendment Committee that has posted a reading list. Both of these sources provide more than enough background reading for the upcoming Unit discussions. In fact, our League, along with Leagues across the country, will be using those lists as we complete this huge study that will be finalized in June 2016.

The LWVUS sent a letter to the IRS last year on its proposed rule strictly limiting the political activity of 501(c)(4) organizations and the IRS withdrew the proposed rule. Comments were also sent to the new Federal Election Commission (FEC) to encourage the commission to engage in rule-making to address Citizen United and other related decisions.

The sources of the money, the changes to campaign

financing and the potential solutions will all be part of the presentations that will be given at each of our nine Units in March. Do we need a constitutional amendment, public financing, disclosure acts or a combination of these and others? Choose which Unit works best for your schedule and attend to get the first of many informative discussions that we will plan over the next year. All of these issues and how we can make an impact on decisions will be discussed at the Unit meetings beginning March 9 – March 14.

One of the solutions we will be discussing in our Unit meetings in March is San Diego's real opportunity to put a Clean Elections Initiative on the November 2016 General Election ballot. "Neighborhoods for Clean Elections" organizations have had some real success in getting the endorsements of 18 town councils for their San Diego Municipal Clean Elections Ordinance to be placed in front of the voters of San Diego to have Clean Election candidates run for the offices of mayor, city attorney and city council members. We can't wait to tell you more about this, as well as more details about all the other states and cities around the country that are successfully running Clean Election campaigns.



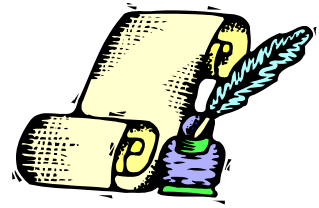
~ Kay Ragan, Jeanne Brown, Terri Prevost



Special Convention information being sent by email 'blast.' Information
can also be found on the Convention site: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>



President's Message



We had a very productive Program Planning meeting on February 7. I am sorry if you were unavailable to attend. Some important actions were supported and, of course, will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 6 for final review. There was support for a local study on the new legislation "Yes Means Yes." We will also propose a statewide study on "Death with Dignity" at the state convention in May. Updates of the Unified Port District Position were received and supported. It was determined the local Civil Services Position needs to include updated language. The local Social Policy Position needs to be updated and the Education Committee agreed to take the leadership.

Minor word changes to a couple state positions were recommended. All other state and local positions were retained as written. Two areas of education were identified: the competitive bid process for ambulance services in San Diego and the need for rehabilitation programs in prisons.

As we celebrate the 95th birthday of the League, the national president identified the following 10 ways the League has helped improve our nation.

1. The Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921, a groundbreaking law providing **federal funding for maternity and child care, was the League's first major success**
2. Following World War II, the League helped lead the effort to establish the Unity Nations.
3. In 1952, the League joined NBC and Life magazine in sponsoring the first-ever televised U.S. presidential debate. We served as the official presidential debate sponsor from 1976-1984. Today, Leagues across the country continue to sponsor candidate debates at the state and local levels.
4. McCarthyism and the witch hunt period of the 1950s inspired the League to help educate Americans on their individual rights and liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution. This work culminated when LWWUS President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress against Senator **Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers in 1955.**
5. Between 1950 and 1970, the League increased its effectiveness in regard to both public education and advocacy, prompting Senator George **Aiken to remark, "Only 135,000 of them? I thought there were millions."**
6. Throughout the 70s and 80s, passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was a top League priority at the national and state levels. The League organized the National Business Council (NBC) for ERA, the first formal structure to bring major business leaders into the fight for ratification.
7. In the 1990s, the League was at the forefront of the fight to pass the National Voter Registration Act, better known as Motor Voter. We **even have President Clinton's pen from the signing!**

(continued on page 5)

League of Women Voters
 San Diego 2014-2015
 Board of Directors 7/14 - 6/15

President.....Kay Ragan
 Vice President.....Jeanne Brown
 Secretary.....Donna Bartlett-May
 Treasurer.....Mary Hanson
 Dir-Administration.....Amie Garapich
 Dir-Membership.....Beryl Flom
 Dir-Program.....Jeanne Brown
 Dir-Education.....Penny Adler
 Dir-Public Policy.....Myles Pomeroy
 Dir-Finance.....Jody Tadder
 Dir-Voters Service.....Amanda Berg
 Dir-International Relations.....
Anne Hoiberg
 Unit Coordinator.....Carole Porter
 Voter Editor.....Dolores Nelson
 Webmaster.....Cris Hagaman

Phone: 858-483-8696
 E-mail: lwwsandiego@gmail.com
 Website: www.lwwsandiego.org
 SmartVoter: www.smartvoter.org

San Diego Voter is published monthly by the Board except June, July, and December. Subscriptions: \$27 per year.
 League of Women Voters of San Diego
 7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A
 San Diego CA 92111

Copyright © 2015 by The League of Women Voters of San Diego.
 No part of this newsletter may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission.

March Units ~ Election Financing

Mon, Mar 9 9:30-11:30 am	Rancho Bernardo & Scripps Ranch	The Gateway – TV Room 858-487-1197 12751 Gateway Park Road, Poway 92064	Claire Weiner.....858-679-7350 Betsy Stevens.....858-451-5653
Mon, Mar 9 10 am-noon	Ocean Beach/ Point Loma	Point Loma Library 3701 Voltaire St, Point Loma (SD) 92107	Nancy Witt.....619-222-7230 Shirley Walkoe....619-223-6314
Mon, Mar 9 1:30-3:30 pm	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego 92122	Mariette Kobrak...858 450-1521 Catherine Stoll...858-755-4119
Tues, Mar 10 9:30-11:30 am	La Jolla	La Jolla Community Center 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla 92037	Terri Prevost.....619-384-3062 Alice McCauley....858-642-1856
Wed, Mar 11 1-3 pm	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive, San Diego 92124	Carole Porter.....858-279-5474
Wed, Mar 11 5:30-7:30 pm	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library, Meeting Room A Fenton Pkwy, near Ikea, San Diego 92108	Debra Blum.....619-225-0353
Fri, Mar 13 9:30-11:30 am	East County	El Cajon Library, Conference Room 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon 92020	Marietta Lassaline.619-448-6270
Fri, Mar 13 1:30-3:30 pm	College/Rolando	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road, San Diego 92115	Ann McDonald....619-464-1937 Pearline Hayes....619 582-2296
Sat, Mar 14 10 am-noon	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street, San Diego 92105	Sue Rogers.....619-233-1744 Call Sue for directions

LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ March

Mon	Mar 2	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave, Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Tues	Mar 3	5 pm	LWVSD Board Meeting, Board Room, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Thurs	Mar 5	9:30 am	Unit Council, 3rd Floor Board Room, 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111
Fri	Mar 6	10 am	LWVSDC ILO Board, Scripps Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Dr, San Diego 92131
Fri	Mar 13	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave, Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Wed	Mar 18	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Office of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd, SD 92111, 305
Sat	Mar 20	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave, Ste. 224A, SD 92111

LWVSD Activities ~ March

Thurs	Mar 12	6 pm	“Vessel,” San Diego Coalition for Reproductive Choice, see page 4
Fri	Mar 20	8 am-noon	Restoring Respect 4th Annual Conference ~ see page 6
Tues	Mar 31	6-8 pm	Women’s Museum Exhibit and Reception, “Tears of War....” ~ see page 7

Save the Dates ~ Mark Your Calendars

Sun, Apr 19	Earth Day, Balboa Park 10 am-5pm, http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html Jeanne Brown, jhisten.brown@gmail.com is coordinating and looking for volunteers. See page 6.
May 15-17	LWVC Convention in San Diego! Special Convention information being sent by email ‘blast.’ Information also on the Convention site: https://lwvc.wordpress.com/



Also see <http://lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html> for updates

changes in bold type

The Lowdown on Pesticide Use: San Diego County Cooperative Extension

It would seem that there exists misinformation (and even disinformation) about the agricultural use of pesticides and herbicides in county agriculture and hence also an ignorance of the extensive scientific research and management programs offered through the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) San Diego County Cooperative Extension.



sion making about what to do. One size never fits all. Absolutistic or unequivocal pronouncements necessarily give way to actual, ongoing applied science.

The UC flagship program, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a systems approach to pest management. Because of the diverse situations in which pests occur, what constitute best practices vary with time and location. Accordingly, IPM considers each available control tactic--for example, biological, chemical, cultural--and applies a combination of tactics to enhance effectiveness and reduce reliance on any single "shot-gun" approach. IPM relies on extensive scientific knowledge of a specific pest, a specific crop, and a specific environment in which a pest exists. Consequently, regularly and frequently monitoring the status of a pest, its natural enemies and its actual site is fundamental to deci-

The broad goals of this program are: 1) increase use of ecologically based integrated pest management programs; 2) provide leadership, including building coalitions

and partnerships that link with communities and public agencies; 3) increase predictability and effectiveness of pest management techniques; 4) develop science-based programs that are economically and environmentally sustainable and socially appropriate; 5) protect human health and the environment by reducing risks caused by pests and pest management practices.

Unfortunately, funding for these vital activities no longer matches need, although web designers have created platforms for delivering IPM information electronically. Nevertheless, the methods of applied science ideally mandate hands-on cooperation between field scientist and farmer.

~ Peggy Dornish, Chair, Agriculture Committee, LWVSDC

(continued from page 2)



8. Following five years of campaigning, the League helped pass the McCain-Feingold bill in 2002, better known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA). The legislation closed the most significant loopholes in campaign finance regulations at the time, **making historic strides in helping protect our nation's elections from secret money.**

9. In 2006, the League launched VOTE411.org, the go-to-online resource for voter registration and elections-related information. In 2014, over 1.5 million people used VOTE411.org to find the election information they needed to vote.

10. In 2014, the League and our partners helped collect 8 million public comments encouraging the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency (EPA) to cut carbon pollution and fight climate change. We are still pushing ahead in 2015.

Best, Kay Ragan, kragand@cox.net

Proudly hosted by First Unitarian Universalist Reproductive Justice Group and the San Diego Coalition for Reproductive Choice

An award-winning SXSW Film Festival documentary

VESSEL

SPECIAL SHOWING: MARCH 12, 2015
Reception - 6:00pm ⚓ Show Time - 6:30pm

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
4190 FRONT STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92103

FREE ADMISSION

RSVP for Food and Beverage (858) 736-7733 or e-mail Karen at kiamphere@cox.net

<http://vesselthefilm.com/>

Convention News

Help Needed at the Concierge Desk for the LWVC Convention



San Diego. May 15-17

Beryl Flom, Chair of the LWVSD's Tours Committee, is planning to provide information to Convention guests and their families concerning public transit, restaurants, tours, and attractions in San Diego. The Concierge Desk will be open

- Friday from 8:30 am - 10:00 am and 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm;
- Saturday from 7:30 am - 10:00 am and 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm, and
- Sunday from 7:30 am - 9:00 am and 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

The dates of the State League Convention are May 15-17, 2015 and the location is the Westin Hotel in Horton Plaza. Volunteers are welcome to stay and attend free any aspect of the convention during the day they are volunteering when they are not working. Beryl will have information available, but please bring a laptop or ipad or iphone if you have one. Beryl's contact is 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net.



Special Convention information being sent by email 'blast.' Information

can also be found on the Convention site: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>



Tears of War: The Many Faces of Refugee Women

Women's Museum Exhibits Refugee Women's Strength and Resilience

League members and friends are invited to the **Women's Museum of California** to meet Curator Anne Hoiberg and several refugee women at a wine-and-cheese reception, Tuesday, March 31, 6-8 pm.

The current exhibit honors the lives of twenty-one refugee and asylee women by showcasing their stories, their journey **"from harm to home,"** to quote the International Rescue Committee. Photographs and stories of these refugee and asylee women are mounted on panels; also added to the panels is a brief history of the **armed conflict.** **As we read the women's stories, we** marvel at their strength and resilience.



And, the exhibit acknowledges Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for almost fifteen years of dedication to advocating for refugees. The exhibit also salutes those organizations and agencies in San Diego that help refugees and asylees navigate every aspect of immigration and resettlement.

The museum is located at 2730 Historic Decatur Road, Barracks 16, Liberty Station, Point Loma. To RSVP, telephone 619.233.7963 or tclarke@womensmuseumca.org.

~ Anne Hoiberg, Director, International Relations

Restoring Respect Join the Dialogue!

Come join the San Diego community for:
**RESTORING RESPECT'S 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON RESTORING CIVILITY TO CIVIC DIALOGUE**
"Celebrating Civility"

With the announcement of the winners of the San Diego Unified
School District C⁶ Awards – Celebrating Civility Awards:
Creating Civility On Our Campuses and In Our Community

Friday, March 20, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
University of San Diego's Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

Admission is Free

To register, please visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/restoringrespect/> and click **Register online today!**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Steve P. Dinkin
President,
National Conflict Resolution Center

MODERATOR



Carl Luna, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science,
San Diego Mesa College

OPENING REMARKS



**The Reverend
George Walker Smith**



Mary Lyons, Ph.D.
President,
University of San Diego



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor,
San Diego Community
College District



Cindy Marten
Superintendent,
San Diego Unified
School District

PANELISTS



Greg Cox
Member,
San Diego County
Board of Supervisors



Karla Peterson
Reporter,
U-T San Diego



Mary Walshok, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Public Programs and
Dean of Extension at the
University of California, San Diego



Adam Garcia
President,
Associated Student Government,
San Diego City College

Other panelists not pictured: **Michel Anderson**, Anderson and Associates

Restoring Respect is Supported by:

Partners



Sponsors





Membership

We welcome the following new members this month:

Patricia Flanigan (92106), Alex Gauthier (92120), Faye Girsh (92122), Gail Lawrence (92103), Alicia Munoz (92119), Cheryl Noncarrow (92014), Margaret Robertson (92037), Judy Swink (92107), and Lori Thiel (92037).

It is so exciting to see our membership grow and to see such interest in the programs and work of the League of Women Voters.

If you think you have been a member of the League for a contiguous 50 years, please let Beryl Flom know so we can honor you at the annual meeting. Your membership can be anywhere, not just in San Diego.

~ Beryl Flom, Membership Chair, 858-459-4406, edflom@sbcglobal.net

A new committee is looking at the City of San Diego Charter so the League can comment on and make suggestions for changes in the Charter being studied by the City Council's Charter Review Committee. If you could help us with this important job, please contact Beryl Flom, edflom@sbcglobal.net or 858-459-4406.

Earth Day 2015

April 22 marks the 45nd anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. More than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2015 events. People of all nationalities and backgrounds will voice their appreciation for the planet and demand its protection. Individuals, organizations, and governments will be called upon to stand united to create a sustainable future.

In 1970, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. However, there was a growing public awareness for the importance of preserving the environment, living organisms and public health.

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson



announced the idea for a “national teach-in on the environment” to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

In 1990 Earth Day went global. In 2000 the focus was global warming and a push for clean energy.

Attend the San Diego Earth Fair event at Balboa Park on Sunday April 19 from 10 am–5 pm.

<http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html>

Jeanne Brown jhisten.brown@gmail.com of LWV San Diego will coordinate a League exhibition at this event. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the table. Join in the fun!

~ Jeanne Brown, Vice-president



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

San Diego CA

Permit No. 422

League of Women Voters
of San Diego

7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A

San Diego CA 92111

858-483-8696

Return Service Requested

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.

Join the League

Individual Membership \$65 Additional Household Memberships \$35

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

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

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone(s) _____ E-Mail _____

How did you hear about LWV? _____

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego
7710 Balboa Avenue, Suite 224A San Diego, CA 92111 Phone: 858-483-8696

* To be tax-deductible, please make check to LWVSD Education Fund.