



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The ILO represents the Leagues  
of San Diego and North County

# Voter

May 2015

## President's Message

This will likely be the last ILO Voter for this program year. It has been the first year of one of the local presidents also serving as president of the ILO. We discussed alternating the chairing of meetings and the development of agendas, but with Cathy Greene and Carol Grimes being new to their positions and not having served on the ILO Board previously, they were not comfortable taking on yet another position.

We have fostered good relations between the two Leagues as there have been shared efforts on the part of every project. We have enjoyed a good exchange of ideas at each of our meetings.

We have been unable to identify members from either League to serve on a nominating committee as we are having our own local challenges in identifying new leaders. Perhaps with this message there will be a member to step forward and offer to serve as president or secretary. Donna Bartlett-May said at one time that she would serve as president if there is someone that would serve as secretary. That is a wonderful offer as both positions are very important.

Great plans are in place for the County Council meeting on Friday, June 12 at the County Operations Center. The program flyer is in this Voter... make your reservation today.

The focus of the program will be to act on the updated county position on Behavioral Health. The update committee completed their work within a year of their appointment. Our congratulations to Liz Kruidenier, Bettie Reinhardt-Shepherd, Trish Monroe, Sylvia Hampton, Vicki Beck, Deanne George, Rachel Perlmutter, and Katherine Smith-Brooks for their outstanding work.

Both Leagues reached consensus and approved the

position, so there may not be a lot of discussion. It needs to be formally adopted at the Council meeting. The update serves as background for our speaker Piedad Garcia, from the County Office of Behavioral Health, who will be discussing the current services provided residents throughout the County. Dr. Garcia comes highly recommended by members of the study committee. You will not want to miss her presentation.

Yours in League,

*Kay Ragan*, [kragand@cox.net](mailto:kragand@cox.net)



## Earth Day 2015

Jeanne Brown

Jill Elsner



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

County Operations Center, 5510 Overland Avenue, San Diego

**June 12, 2015 - 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**



Featured speaker - Dr. Piedad Garcia,  
Assistant Deputy Director for the San Diego  
County Health and Human Services Agency

Dr. Garcia has been working in the mental health field for 32 years, 28 of those with HHSA, where she is currently the director Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services and oversees a budget of over \$180 million and the implementation of more than 130 contracts which offer treatment for persons with mental health disorders and substance abuse.

In more than three decades in the field, Dr. Garcia has been directly involved in the transformation of the local mental health system.

She is most interested in educating the community about mental illness and reduce its negative associations. She reports the agency has great programs that are focused on the Latino, African-American and Asia communities as well as the homeless population with mental illnesses.

You do not want to miss Dr. Garcia's update report on the services being provided those suffering from mental health disorders. It is a subject that has touched each of us either within our families or the impact on our communities.

The day will include our annual business meeting and the opportunity to adopt the proposed updated position on Behavioral Health.

**Rolls and coffee when you arrive and box lunch included.**

ILO County Council Meeting & Lunch — Friday, June 12, 2016 — Behavioral Health

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check for \$15 for each guest to Barbara Lorenzen, 1192 Tres Ninios Corte, Vista, CA 92084

## Smart Voter Transition to MapLight/Voter's Edge

On March 22, 2015, the LWVCEF Board of Directors approved a motion to undertake a partnership with MapLight/Voter's Edge to adopt Voter's Edge California as the League's online voter information program beginning in 2016. According to Helen Hutchison, LWVC/LWVCEF President, this partnership will combine Smart Voter's thorough ballot coverage with MapLight's expertise in campaign finance analysis and online technology. You'll recall that LWVC entered into a pilot project with MapLight/Voter's Edge in 2014. In early October, when voters and candidates went to Smart Voter, they were automatically transferred to the Voter's Edge program. That pilot project ended in December. Since then, Melissa Breach,



the LWVCEF Executive Director who had directed the pilot for LWVC, has been working

with MapLight to improve the user experience and work toward a smooth transition for the partnership. It is expected that Melissa will continue to administer the new partnership and will hire a project director and other staff in the coming months. It is not known yet what changes there will be for volunteers who have worked on Smart Voter and wish to continue with Voter's Edge. This year, 'classic' Smart Voter, as we have known it, has been used for local and special elections in some counties, including Los Angeles.

*Joyce Joseph*, Smart Voter Coordinator, ILO  
[jjoseph@san.rr.com](mailto:jjoseph@san.rr.com)

## Fast Forward



SANDAG'S new regional plan, San Diego Fast Forward: The Regional Plan combines the Regional Comprehensive Plan with the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. It will guide growth in the San Diego county region to 2050. The Plan has been in development for several years. SANDAG's Board of Directors will hear the draft plan at its regularly-scheduled meeting on April 24 and will approve its release for public review and comment. Adoption will be later in 2015.

The plan brings together transportation planning choices with healthy and complete community, habitat and open space, energy sustainability, and other objectives.

Public meetings on the draft plan will be held during May. All meetings will begin at 6 pm except for the May 14 meeting, which will begin at 1 pm.

- May 12 at Escondido City Hall
- May 13 at La Mesa Community Center
- May 14 at Caltrans, Old Town
- May 20 at Oceanside City Hall
- May 21 at Casa Familiar
- May 27 at Jacobs Center
- May 28 at UTC Forum Hall

More information on Fast Forward is available on SANDAG's web site, [www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org).

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the regional council of governments and the regional long-range planning agency for the San Diego county region. Its voting members are elected representatives of the 18 cities in the county and the County of San Diego.

*Nan Valerio*, Director, Regional Governance

## Behavioral Health Updates

Members of the Behavioral Health Update Committee met with all the LWVs' Units in San Diego County in February and presented their newly researched and updated positions, as well as gathering input from those who attended. The next step will be to present these positions for a vote of approval at the Annual SDC LWV's County Council meeting on Friday, June 12 at the SD County Operations Center. Our keynote speaker will be Piedad Garcia, EdD, LCSW, Assistant Deputy Director, San Diego County Department of Mental Health, head of BH Services for Adults and Older Adults with Serious Mental Illness.

The newly integrated Behavioral Health Board is now made up of board members appointed by all five County Supervisors from both the Department of Behavioral Health and the Department of Alcohol and Drugs. At their April meeting it was moved and seconded with one abstention to approve the implementation of Laura's Law. (Laura's law is a California state law that allows court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment for individuals with a serious mental illness if it is approved by the Board of Supervisors of each county) It was pre-

sent for a vote to the San Diego Board of Supervisors at their meeting on April 21; implementation was approved by a three to one vote. The contract is for one year to help 114 individuals become treatment compliant beginning January 2016 with an option to renew for four more years.

SB 614 a long sought bill to support the certification of peers and family members has come out of committee; if it passes, it would be a significant step in helping those with "lived experience" become recognized as family support specialists with a salary that would truly reflect their experience.

May is Mental Health Month and there are many educational programs and health fairs that are being held throughout the county, with the NAMI 2015 5K WALK/RUN on Saturday, May 2nd at Liberty Station being the largest. It is a good time to get a little exercise and a free Mood Check. [www.namiwalks.org/SanDiegoCounty](http://www.namiwalks.org/SanDiegoCounty)

*Liz Kruidenier*, Director, Behavioral Health

Josan Feathers  
 Jill Elsner  
 Marrietta Lassaline  
 John Lassaline



Commissioner  
 Dave Roberts visits



Thanks to everyone who made this another successful contribution to Earth Day 2015!



## Health and Human Services

The monthly Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) Health and Human Services (HHSA) reports:



- There is a growing increase in CalFresh (food stamps) from last year;
- CalWorks recipients are down a bit with 2,711 recipients for General Relief and Medical benefits at 41.7%;
- The ACCESS call line at the Customer Service Center still has long phone waits with an average of 37 minutes. Calling 211 is encouraged for asking for help or about needed services.
- Family Resource Centers (FRC's), where people can apply for welfare, are overcrowded. Flyers in different languages advertise how people can get help online, with a mobile phone app, by mail or using the ACCESS phone line rather than in person.
- CALWORKS Housing Support Program (new) provides services to obtain and maintain long term permanent housing for those that meet the homeless criteria and are on CALWORKS. Recipients get intensive case management, maybe a rental subsidy, and /or assistance with finding and relocat-

ing to sustainable housing.

- CalFresh (food stamps) now has a Restaurant Meals Program designed only for elderly, disabled and homeless people not able to utilize their CalFresh benefits because they are unable to store or prepare food safely. They can now purchase hot, prepared meals with their EBT cards at participating restaurants.
- California's April lifting of a ban on CalFresh for those with a former drug conviction means access to critical food resources for individuals trying to turn their lives around.

Eligibility Director Rick Wanne welcomes public input for needed improvements to HHSA.

However...we are still unable to get rid of Project 100% which investigates all applying for cash aid by the District Attorney for Fraud. We are the only county in the US using this program. It is getting harder to find information about their investigations to show why the program is a waste of money. There are coding problems because a closed case is counted as fraud if it was withdrawn or dropped.

*Marjie Larson*, Director, Social Policy

### Call to Action for Climate Action Opportunity

When it comes to climate change, we often wonder what we can do to take meaningful steps in the fight against the warming of our planet. There is something you can do. Join us to learn about one of the most effective ways that Californians can advocate for climate solutions at the local level – the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

SanDiego350 is presenting a North County Climate Action Plan Workshop on **Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 1:30 pm to 5 pm** at Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1600 Buena Vista Drive in Vista.

The workshop will combine presentations by CAP experts, breakouts to discuss the status of individual cit-

ies, and fun networking and energizing activities.

What you can expect from the workshop:

- Understand what a CAP is, why it is needed, and how it can be used to get better climate policies in place;
- Learn how a CAP fits in with regional and state plans;
- Review the status of various cities' CAPs;
- Connect with other climate advocates in your city and region;
- Leave with follow up actions and contacts; and

(continued on page x)



## San Diego County's Canine Corps

Unmarked or deliberately mislabeled parcels present a high-risk pathway for quarantined plants and harmful pests to enter the state according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. What to do? Enter the California Dog Teams who with their human handlers inspect and surveil plant products and pests entering the state illegally.

Each dog in the program is a rescue dog acquired through an animal shelter or a breed rescue group or even newspaper and Internet ads. These dogs embark on a new life when they qualify for service: they have been screened for sociability, intelligence, physical soundness, low anxiety levels, and high "food drive." The dogs and their handlers next complete an intensive 10-week school through the USDA National Detector Dog Training program to prepare for their inspection duties. The dogs are initially trained to detect five "target odors": citrus, apple, mango, guava, and stone fruit. Once they have mastered these smells, their partners work with them to increase their repertoire to include plants, soil, and insects.

When fully educated--canine PhD's as it were--the "sniffer dogs," as they are affectionately called, are ready to alert on marked and unmarked parcels which contain any agricultural products. After an alert, trained biologists inspect these packages for plant pests, including insect species, diseases, and harmful

organisms. Currently county sniffer dogs conduct their inspections at UPS, FedEx, other private parcel carriers, and US Post Offices.

The teams are assigned to the County Agricultural Weights and Measures department, and you will have the pleasure of meeting Black Labs "Drake" and "Venus" on County League Day in August.

*Peggy Dornish*, Chair, County Agriculture Study Committee



(continued from page x)

- Get the know how and the inspiration to participate strategically in the process.

Speakers include:

- Nicole Capretz, Executive Director, Climate Action Coalition and a primary author of the City of San Diego draft Climate Action Plan;
- Diane Nygaard, President, Preserve Calavera and Steering Committee Member, Sierra Club San Diego.

The cost is \$5+ per person to cover materials and re-



freshments – there are scholarships available and no one will be turned away.

Please register/rsvp for the workshop at <http://sandiego350.org/civicrm/civicrm/event/register>.

Be sure to share on Facebook.

While the focus will be on the 9 North County cities (Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Poway, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Vista), most of the day's information applies to any city's climate action plan as well as to county and other plans.

Together, we can make sure our cities take serious climate action. See you there!

## How California Can Survive the Drought

Governor Brown recently issued an executive order mandating a 25% reduction in water usage. Our reservoirs have a year's worth of water before we have to depend on groundwater, which is dwindling.

You know the drill – you already pre-rinse dishwasher loads in a bowl and only run your water-efficient dishwasher when full; you replaced the faucet aerators with low-flow models; you installed dual-flush toilets; you replaced your showerheads with low-flow fixtures; you take shorter showers; you turn off the water while you brush your teeth; you wash only full loads of clothes in your new water-efficient washer.

The biggest savings come from digging up your lawn and replacing it with native or drought-tolerant plants or a synthetic lawn. You've installed a drip irrigation system with a smart irrigation controller that senses moisture and temperature. You use a shut-off hose and apply mulch around your plants. You have a pool cover and shut-off fountains to reduce evaporation. You repair leaks. You go to the car wash.

Four percent of California's water footprint is from household use. In 2014, San Diego's average household use was 108 gallons per person per day. Almost half of that was used for outdoor watering. We reduced water consumption by 20% since 2007. Now, we have to cut back another 25%. We can do it!



But what about fracking? It uses about two billion gallons of water every year in California. This is obscene. But besides badgering our legislators, there isn't much we can do, personally, to stop it.

So, let's look at what we can do – and address the elephant in the room. Wait, I mean the cow. Because, besides fracking, the other major source of industrial water use is agriculture.

Overall, agriculture accounts for almost 90% of all the water used in California, growing the majority of America's fruits and vegetables. California uses more water than any other state. Annually, we grow 99% of the almonds, 95% of the broccoli, 92% of the strawberries, 90% of the tomatoes and wine, 65% of the fruits and

nuts, and 30% of the vegetables cultivated in the US. While a percentage of this water goes to growing these crops, the majority of water is actually used for animal agriculture and for feeding livestock, accounting for almost half the water used in the state. The most heavily irrigated crop, and the one which uses the most water, is alfalfa. California uses 100 billion gallons of water each year to grow alfalfa which is exported to China, in addition to what it grows for California livestock.

The average American consumes 209 pounds of meat per year. On average, vegetarian diets require about 60% less water than the diets of meat-eaters, with vegan diets requiring even less. It takes less water to produce one year's worth of food for a completely plant-based diet than it does to produce one month's worth of food for a diet with animal products. Producing one pound of animal protein requires about 100 times more water than producing one pound of grain protein. One pound of beef requires 2,500 gallons of water, versus 100 gallons for one pound of wheat. It takes about 3,400 gallons of water to produce one steak. 10 hamburgers use as much water as an entire year's worth of showers! Skipping one single hamburger saves 660 gallons of water.

To save California from this drought, we need to curtail the grazing of cattle and sheep on hundreds of millions of acres of federally managed land. We need to transition toward a more plant-based diet, and reduce or eliminate the consumption of animal products. Start with Meatless Mondays and work your way to meatless weekdays. If we continue to buy and eat water intensive crops and animal products, the agricultural industry will continue to produce them, perhaps even increase production in the future. Be aware of your water footprint. Now, step away from that 'burger...

*Josan Feathers*, Director, Natural Resources

