



San Diego Voter

Vol. 73 No. 4

April 2009

Unit Meetings: Consensus On “National Popular Vote”

At the Unit meetings in April, we will be presenting information on National Popular Vote and taking consensus. This is a “quickie” study approved at the National Convention last June. The New York State LWV has already studied it, so the work just needed to be prepared for national consensus.

You will find the Every Member Tool (EMT)/background information and the consensus questions in this Voter as an insert. PLEASE READ IT BEFORE YOU COME TO THE UNIT MEETING. Note that the meetings this month are a bit late; they are based on the Board meeting being held the first Tuesday of the month, which is April 7.

National Popular Vote: this method uses the mechanism of the Electoral College to ensure that the candidate who receives the most popular votes is elected President of the United States.

LWVUS already has a position to get rid of the Electoral College, but doing it by changing the Constitution is a long and arduous process. Since the Electoral College was set up using a compact with the states, each state can undo the agreement.

If this concept is approved by Leaguers all over the U.S., we will then be able to advocate for this change in the way the President is selected. Come to Unit meetings to hear the pros and cons and more about how a direct election would work and how it can be legally changed without a Constitutional amendment.

Beryl Flom, VP/Program

Save the Date!

League of Women Voters of San Diego

Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 30

10:00 AM

Serra Mesa/ Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive, San Diego 92123

Look for more details next month.

Save the Date!

The LWVSD is planning an Evening at the Theatre in Old Town on May 11, to attend *Mary and Myra*, the story of the relationship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her attorney, Mary Bradwell, the first woman attorney in the U.S.

The setting of the play is a mental institution where Mary's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, had had her committed.

More details next month.

Note!

There will be no luncheons in April or May, but watch for one on living a more sustainable life in early June.

Note!

Unit Coordinator Jody Tadder would like to run a monthly column of newsy or fun items that have occurred at Unit Meetings, if you will let her know at (858) 277-4576, or jotall3@yahoo.com

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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: lwwsd@san.rr.com

Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
SmartVoter: www.smartvoter.org

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Co-President's Message

Arundhati Roy: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

Fifteen of us from San Diego, including LWWSD's Dee Aker, Rebecca Booth, Bettina Hausmann, and Kathy Hughart survived the cold and participated in the annual session of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). At the March 2 opening meeting, a new feeling permeated the massive conference room of the General Assembly -- one could sense an air of change as delegates from more than 100 nations and international experts presented reports on the topics of this year's session: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS; equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels; and gender perspectives of the financial crisis.

Simultaneously, more than 200 workshops and panel presentations were scheduled across the street at the 12-story Church Center, funded in 1962 by United Methodist women for the use of faith-based and nongovernmental organizations affiliated with the U.N. Examples of such programs included the prevention of violence against girls (presented by LWWUS), critical voices of men and women in human security (presented by USD's Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice), recruitment of women to run for elected office, and men's responsibility in ending the demand that supports sex trafficking.

During the first week, we attended two briefings hosted by the U.S. delegation to the CSW, led by Meryl Frank who, with congressional approval, will become our U.S. Ambassador, representing all American women at this commission. She shared with us the priorities that U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice, the Permanent Representative to the U.N., will pursue during her tenure: climate change, disarmament, development, and peacekeeping. The U.S. CSW delegates were eager to hear our statements and requests that could impact their deliberations with delegates from other countries. I asked if there had been any discussion about encouraging all member states of the U.N. to divert funding from their military budgets, say 5% of the total, to address the financial crises that all nations are facing. Unfortunately, there had been no such discussion. To facilitate more interactions with our delegates, we were provided with the email address of our representative at the U.S. mission at the United Nations.

Yes, we can almost feel change in the air -- and we can even hear the faint breathing of another world.

---Anne Hoiberg, 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.

San Diego's Earth Day

The largest environmental fair in the World
Sunday, April 19, Balboa Park

Why you should participate:

- A. **It's fun, educational and provides exercise.** You'll need to walk the equivalent of a few blocks to view the 200+ stalls which will exhibit organizations ranging from conservation, wildlife preservation, products made from natural and organically grown crops, organic gardening, alternative energy vehicles, ecotourism opportunities, many alternative and traditional health care products and services, pet adoption services, clean air and clean water products, rainforest preservation groups.... etc.
- B. **Learn how to "green" your residence** at the eHome exhibit area which will showcase environmentally sustainable, energy-efficient products and technologies.
- C. **Holiday shop** ahead from the various environmental goods and services for sale.
- D. **Other** -- View Art made from recycled materials, enjoy the various bands, a parade and many activities for the kids and
- E. **Food** - enjoy some vegetarian fare.

For more information, visit www.Earthdayweb.org

Why the League wants you to participate

We will be hosting a booth, where we will be handing out League information, registering voters, challenging participants to take our "recycling" and "water challenge and taste" tests as well as distribute some "green"-friendly samples.

We would appreciate your support by volunteering for a two hour shift: (10-12, 12-2, 2-4 and 3-5). All of us who have previously volunteered have enjoyed our experience talking to passer-byes about the League, registering voters and encouraging them to become more "green" via our hand outs and fun environmental games. We also love walking around and viewing the other exhibits, etc. before/after our shift

Please email jill@jillelsner.com(or call W 858-695-6660 or H 858-274-2475) if you're available to volunteer and/or with any thoughts for the League booth. Don't worry if you'd like to volunteer but are reluctant to as the transportation issues seems too complex. If there's sufficient interest, some of us will arrange to meet at Mission Bay at different times (the Information Centre at Clairemont Drive/Mission Bay Drive), and then carpool to the event (dropping off everyone in front), depending on numbers. Please call!

---Jill Elsner, Natural Resources Chair/Treasurer

Membership

Currently the LWVSD has 497 members!
Please welcome new members who joined between Feb. 15 to March 15, 2009.

NAME	ZIP
Carolyn Ayres	92118
Catherine Burgess	92117
Judith Collins	92118
Craig Jackson	92121
Patricia Phelan	92037

Welcoming our New Members

An Introduction to the League reception for new members will be held on Saturday, April 25th, at Suki Stone's home from 2-4 p.m. at 10622 Riesling Drive.

If you have been a member of the League for 50 years, please call the office (858-483-8696) and leave a message for Catherine Stoll.

Peggy Finch, Membership Co-Chair
Peg Bates, Membership Co-Chair

April Unit Meetings: National Popular Vote Consensus

Monday, Apr. 13 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) 613-0335
Monday, Apr. 13 5:30 - 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108	Debra Blum, (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson, (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, Apr. 14 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Sherry Bloom, 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Tuesday, Apr. 14 9:30 - 11:30 AM Note: Day Change	North Shores/ Point Loma	Pacific Beach Library 4275 Cass Street San Diego, CA 92109 Note: Location Change	Shirley Walkoe, (619) 223-6314 Nancy Witt, (619) 222-7230
Tuesday, Apr. 14 1:00 - 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Catherine Stoll, (858) 755-4119 Margaret Stevenson, (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, Apr. 15 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Monterey Villa Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark Dr./Apple Tree Lane San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter, (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Apr. 16 9:30 - 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje, (619) 462-4772
Saturday, Apr. 18 10:00 - 12:00 PM	Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Vergie Wright, (619) 264-6735 Gwen Pamplin, (619) 263-1778
Monday, Apr. 20 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Coronado Unit New Unit!	Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue (Community Room) Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy, (619) 437-4597

LWVSD Calendar — April

4/3	Fri.	10:30 am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
4/7	Tues.	6:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
4/8	Wed.		<i>Passover begins at sundown</i>
4/9	Thurs.	9:30 am 10:15 am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office, National Popular Vote discussion training to follow
4/12	Sun		<i>Easter</i>
Apr. 13-18			UNITS - National Popular Vote Consensus
4/18	Sat	10:00 am	Councilman Todd Gloria (see page 5 for listing)
4/19	Sun	10 am - 5 pm	Earth Day, Balboa Park
4/20	Mon.	10:00 am	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
4/22	Wed.	11:00 am	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
4/24	Fri.	9:30 am	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
4/24	Fri.	Noon	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
4/25	Sat.	10:00 am	Councilwoman Sherri Lightner (see page 5 for listing)

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

INVITES YOU TO MEET THE NEW SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



The LWVSD has invited each of the new City Council Members to a public meeting so we can better understand what their positions are and what issues are most important to them. The Public Policy Committee has prepared questions for them on constituency services, civil service & municipal unions, information on the city's finances and Economic Recovery Plan, and redevelopment reorganization. Background information on these questions will be available to the audiences at the meetings. We urge you to attend and to bring your friends, neighbors, and family members with you. You may well want to hear Council members from outside of your district, so feel free to come to as many as you like. Bring your questions and concerns.

District 3 – Todd Gloria

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.
City Heights Library
3795 Fairmount Ave. 92105

Directions: Take 805 or 15 to University Ave. and go east to 43rd St. Turn right and go one block to Wightman. Turn left for one block to the library.

District 1 – Sherri Lightner

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.
North University Community Library
8820 Judicial Drive, 92122

Directions: Take La Jolla Village Dr. east past the UTC Shopping Center and turn right on Judicial Dr. **OR** Take Hwy. 805 to Miramar Rd. and go west. Judicial Dr. goes south just before UTC.

District 5 – Carl DeMaio

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m.
Scripps Ranch Library
10301 Scripps Lake Drive, 92131

Directions: Take 15 north to Carroll Canyon Rd. and go east; it turns into Scripps Ranch Blvd. going north. **OR** Take 15 south to Mira Mesa/Scripps Ranch Blvd. and go east. Take Scripps Lake Dr. east off of Scripps Ranch Blvd. to the library.

District 7 – Marti Emerald

Saturday, May 9, noon*
Allied Gardens Library
5188 Zion Ave., 92120

Directions: From 15, take Friars Rd. east. Friars Rd. merges with Mission Gorge Rd. Just after the merge, turn right on Zion Ave. and go about a mile to the library. *Pizza will be available

No reservations are needed. All meetings are free.

For more information call League of Women Voters of San Diego at 858-483-8696 or email lwvsd@san.rr.com.



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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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 4901 MORENA BLVD.
 BLDG. 100, SUITE 104
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