



April Unit Meetings: Health Care

Why League supports a single payer health system

Many people believe health care in the U.S. is influenced more by the stock market and insurance and drug companies than doctors or the government. Are they right?

The April unit meetings will focus on this issue and help answer these questions:

- * Why, when we spend more than any other country per person, do we rank 37th in health of our population?
- * Which countries have the healthiest populations and how do they do that?
- * What do doctors and nurses want most?
- * Why do the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, teachers' organizations, the California Nurses Association and over 400 faith-based and community groups support a single payer health program?
- * How do the proposals put forth in Sacramento compare?
- * What do our state elected officials support?
- * What are community groups and elected officials doing to reform the system?

Senate Bill 840, which was passed last year by the state legislature but vetoed by the governor, has been introduced again this year. It establishes a universal, affordable, comprehensive health system that guarantees the right, as Medicare does, to choose your own doctor.

It would replace the 6000 health insurance companies with one statewide trust fund that collects premiums paid by employers and individuals, who together would fairly share the responsibility for

funding the program. This would reduce the administrative portion of California's healthcare costs from nearly 30% to less than 10%.

With everyone in one pool, spreading the risk as widely as possible, no one would be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions. Individuals would be free to change jobs, start a business, go to school or start a family without losing coverage or their family doctor.

SB 840 keeps down the overall cost of healthcare, limits the out-of-pocket costs to individuals, and everyone is covered and gets good care.

The speakers' bureau from Health Care for All/CA San Diego Chapter will be conducting the April unit meetings under the guidance of County League Health Director Sylvia Hampton, also a director of HCA/CA.

Upcoming Events -- Mark your calendars

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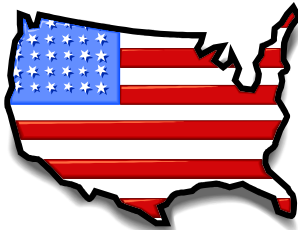
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Contributions may be made to the League of Women Voters of San Diego for advocacy and administrative work, or to the tax-deductible LWVSD Education Fund for voter service and educational activities. For information, contact the League office at (858) 483-8696.

Help Wanted

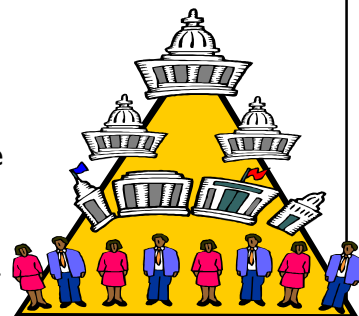
For an exciting new experiment! The Education Committee will attempt to register high school seniors to vote. We need volunteers to go to the schools around the first week in May to register the students. To participate in this event, please call Ruberta Castro 858-273-4794 or e-mail ruberta1@sbcglobal.net Thanks!

State League Convention is May 17-20



Members are urged to be delegates to the Convention this year for several reasons. We are allotted 11 delegates and we would like to have our share of the vote. It is being held in Bakersfield which we can drive to in a carpool, which will reduce the costs.

There is a movement afoot to revise the Energy position and our San Diego Leagues have taken a stance on that, so we need your help to get our point across. Delegates will be versed in our position when we get closer to the time of the Convention. We will also be voting on Program for the next biennium, budget (and per member payment), bylaws, and officers/directors. On the 17th of May, which is the day before the actual Convention, the LWVC is **training Leaguers on overseeing elections of Home Owner organizations**. A new law requires an outside agency to do this and we in the San Diego League think this is a golden opportunity to offer our services and be paid for it. We want as many people as possible to receive this training. It would give us an opportunity to receive funds from people outside our organization – a goal we have had for many years. Finally – we will have fun and be reinvigorated – so come join us! Please contact Beryl Flom for details (858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net).



County League Matters —Mark your calendar!

The County League of Women Voters is planning programs for County Council (Annual Meeting) on June 16 and a County League Day on August 25th (which will also serve as a celebration of the 87th anniversary of the final passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in 1920.) That date was also proclaimed Women's Equality Day by President Jimmy Carter in 1971.



The County League is hoping for a large gathering of members and their guests on both occasions.

Women have gone from being chattel to CEOs in 87 years, so it is time to pat each other on the back.

To contact the planning committee, e-mail Lisa Hamann, Chair at lhamann@ibswb.com



Common Cause and LWV of San Diego

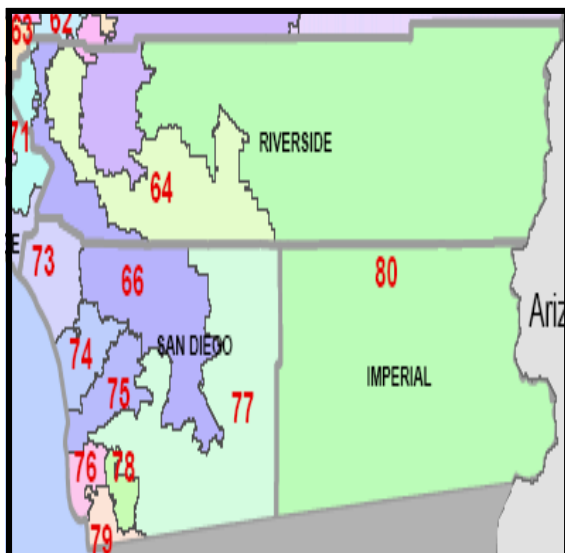
present
**Redistricting:
Lets Get it Right!**

An understanding of California redistricting

Come and hear from the experts:

Kathay Feng, President of California Common Cause, and
Chris Carson, Government Director of League of Women Voters California,
(working with the Governor's office on a possible solution)

Ralph Pesquiera, Chair of the 2000 San Diego Redistricting Commission,
will explain the generally highly regarded and open process that the City of
San Diego went through in 2001 to redistrict the Council seats.



Date: Saturday April 21
Time: 12:00noon-2:00pm
Place: Mission Valley Library
(next to Ikea)

A light luncheon will be available.
Donations will be accepted.
No reservations are required.

Redistricting: Let's Get it Right

Common Cause and LWVSD
 cosponsor a forum on redistricting
 the state legislative and Congressional districts
 Saturday, April 21 at noon
 Mission Valley Library

“All but two or three of the 153 congressional and state legislative seats up for election in even-numbered years are so tilted to one party that there is no chance they will change hands.”

----Editorial, *San Diego Union Tribune*, 12/6/06

This topic has come up many times in the past because many people believe there is too much gerrymandering done when the Legislators redraw the districts. They even go so far as to say that elections are fixed by the districts that are drawn to achieve certain political goals. The question is how to do it fairly. Computers can help with the process to get a balance, but many factors play into it. Another question is who should do it...and who should appoint those people.

“The League places a good deal of emphasis on the importance of the structure of the redistricting process. It is clear that members feel that how redistricting is done is even more important than who does it. League positions on opportunities for citizen participation in government decision-making, the need for adequate notice of proposed actions and the need for open meetings are all crucial to member understanding of what constitutes a fair redistricting process.” (LWVC, “Redistricting – Where WE Stand”, 8/05)

In June, 2005, Redistricting Reform Principles were drawn up at the Airlie Redistricting Conference; the LWVUS and U.S. Common Cause were participants. The principles include:

- Assign the redistricting power to an independent commission
- Ensure the transparency of the process and a meaningful opportunity for interested parties and the public to participate effectively
- Conduct redistricting once each decade, following the census

Standards for Redistricting (in rank order) are:

- Adhere to all Constitution and Voting Rights Act requirements
- Promote competitiveness and partisan fairness
- Respect political subdivisions and communities of interest
- Encourage geographical compactness and respect for geographical features.

*Redistricting is an Issue for Education and Advocacy this year for the State League.
 Come learn more about it from the people on the front lines!*

As of March 1, LWVSD had 532 members.

Please welcome these recent new members:

Betty Hiller	92103	Patricia Laru	92107
Pamela Isaacs	92116	Verna Price	92107

—Dee Sacks

Membership Committee

An Introduction to the League for new members was hosted in the home of June Reardon in March. In attendance were several committee members and four new members. We discussed volunteering for the committee of their choice and encouraged the new members to attend any Unit Meeting they choose. The next Intro meeting will be held in Mid City.

—Peggy Finch

Earth Day! Sunday, April 22nd, Balboa Park

The League will be hosting a booth, handing out 6" seedling plants and other "green" friendly samples. Please call with your ideas about how else the League could promote itself at the Fair. We would also like volunteers to man the booth. Please email jill@jillelsner.com or call W 858-695-6660 or H 858-695-6660.

What is Earth Day? A free annual environmental fair, with more than 200 exhibitors, special theme areas, a Food Pavilion, a special Kids' Activity Area, five entertainment venues, and two parades starting at

10:30AM- the Children's *Earth Parade and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Parade*. A broad range of conservation organizations, products made from natural and organically grown crops, organic gardening info, alternative energy vehicles,

ecotourism, pet adoption services, clean air and water products, rainforest preservation groups, etc.

Kids activities! Crafts, games, face painting, storytelling, and hands-on activities for children of all ages. This year, participants will learn how to make paper, find out about recycling, make gift cards from recycled materials, and learn how to visit

wild areas not disturbing the environment. Our Children's Stage features youth-oriented performances throughout the day. **Entertainment** Sun Stage (behind the Federal Building), and Moon Stage (at Park and Presidents Way) will feature contemporary music by local artists. The Folk Music Stage (by the U.N. building) will feature some of our city's finest folk music artists. Finally, the Magic Stage (front of Lily Pond) will host the "Wizard of Water" show: magic, music and dance all wrapped around water education. **eHome** The area will showcase products and technologies that can make your home more environmentally sustainable. If you're building a new structure, or adding to an existing

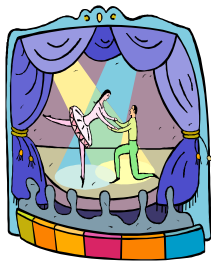
home, alternative home-building technologies, such as straw bale and steel-frame construction, will be of interest. Learn about energy- and resource-saving products and materials, like energy-efficient appliances and low-E windows. A wide variety



of solar electric systems – available now will be shown. **eARTh Gallery** Will feature works by artists using recycled materials or showing San Diego "Endangered Spaces" (next

to the Children's Area close to the Auto Museum). **Food Pavilion** Believe it or not...out-of-the-ordinary vegetarian fare!!! **Goods to Buy** Both profit and non-profit groups will be selling their environmentally-beneficial goods and services. **Getting There** The trolley stop is about a 10 minute walk from the Park. Ride BLUE or ORANGE line Trolley to the CITY COLLEGE/12th AVENUE stop downtown. Then walk approx. 1/2 mile (up hill) along 12th Ave/Park Blvd to Balboa Park. Or, catch the Balboa park bus route 7 at 11th and A St.

- ◆ Take 908, 11 or 1 to Park & University. Route 7 bus takes you to the park.
- ◆ To arrive on the west side of the park, take routes 3, 25 or 1.
- ◆ For complete information on bus and trolley service, please visit sdcommute.com.
- ◆ Or, you can take the **free shuttle service**. From the trolley stop on Park Blvd., cross to the east side of Park and walk up to Russ. The trolley stop is close to the corner of Russ and Park.
- ◆ If driving and arriving after 11 am, don't drive directly to the Park. A **free shuttle service** will take you between the Fair and the **off-site parking location at City College** (from the 163 freeway exit follow the signs. From Park Blvd., you will turn on Russ. Go to the end and turn right. You can park in the lots opposite Garfield Jr. High School; the shuttle stop is marked with a sign. The shuttle runs from 10:30 am to 6 pm).



April Unit Meetings:

Healthcare solution: possible. Problem: insurance and drug companies!

Remember, you may come to any meeting: Pick a time and place that is convenient. If you can't attend your customary unit meeting because of another appointment or a family matter, pick another one.

Monday, Apr 9th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Ethel Palmer (858) 675-0590 Sarah Brown 858-578-1503
Monday, Apr 9th 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (next to IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson 619- 475-8236
Tuesday, Apr 10th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla and Tierrasanta	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856 Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Tuesday, Apr 10th 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	Home of June Reardon 6028 Dirac St San Diego, CA 92122	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Apr 11th 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Thursday, Apr 12 th 9:30 – 11:30 PM	East San Diego	Home of Barbara Evje 8767 Blue Lake Drive San Diego, Ca 92119	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — April

3	Tues	Passover	
4	Wed	6:00pm	LWVSD Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
5	Thur	9:30am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
6	Fri	9:30am	LWVSD Program Committee, S. Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd. 92117
	Fri	10:30am	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
8	Sun	Easter	
4/9-4/12			UNITS-Single Payer Healthcare
17	Tues	6:30pm	Executive Committee, LWVSD Office
18	Wed	10:00am	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
21	Sat	Noon-2:00pm	FORUM: REDISTRICTING , Mission Valley Library
22	Sun	10:00am-5:00pm	EARTH DAY , Balboa Park
25	Wed	12:30pm	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
27	Fri	9:30am	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office

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.

League of Women Voters of San Diego

Another in our popular series of Luncheon Meetings: "Lunch with League"

Sponsored by the Education Committee



Two Superintendents --- New Visions, New Approaches

Dr Carl Cohn, Superintendent, San Diego City Schools

Dr. Randolph Ward, Superintendent, San Diego County Schools

Wednesday, May 23, 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Luncheon 11:00 - Program 11:30

San Diego County Office of Education, Annex "C"

6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego 92111

Parking on site and handicap accessible

\$15 per person

The most recent test results from the National Assessment of Education Progress show that 12th graders are performing worse in reading than they did in 1992 ---despite the improvement required to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Only about 35% of 12th graders are proficient in reading and able to understand what they read in order to make inferences, draw conclusions and see connections with their own experiences. Math scores were even worse with only 23% of 12th graders performing at the proficient level or above.

Drs. Cohn and Ward will be asked to address:

- * how the act is being implemented in San Diego to address the proficiency problems
- * the ways in which City Schools and the County Office of Education work together
- * how they are funded
- * how the League can best support them.

(Following the program, those interested may join a 30-minute walking tour of the County facilities.)

"Lunch with League: Education Issues"

Reservations must be received by Friday, May 18th.

Send your check to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., Ste. #104, San Diego, CA 92117

Name(s) _____




Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$15.00 per person) (Limit of 60 people) Donations: \$ _____

I want to join walking tour of County facilities: Y _____ N _____

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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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