



# San Diego VOTER

Vol. 71 No. 2

February 2007

## February Unit Meetings: Vital to Our Work!

The annual Program Planning Unit Meetings are our chance to have important discussions to:

- Reacquaint ourselves with our local and state positions
- Develop recommendations for the upcoming year.

➤ **STUDY:** when an issue is identified that cannot be acted upon for lack of an applicable League position, members may submit a recommendation for a new study. It should be accompanied by a scope or summary statement

➤ **CONCURRENCE:** when a study has been completed and a position is held in another League, it could be recommended to be adopted *verbatim* by a vote of the delegates at a Convention or Annual Meeting. It also can be studied and adopted by individual local Leagues. Background material would be available.

➤ **UPDATE:** when there is reason to believe that an existing position is either outdated, no longer valid, or in demonstrable need of additional analysis and information, members may recommend an update. An update should also have a scope.

➤ **ISSUE FOR EMPHASIS:** when a combination of member and citizen education based on an existing position is needed; it may also include investigation or action.

➤ **ACTION:** when a local issue is identified for advocacy through letters, speeches, coalitions, or other types of action, we may take such action if the issue corresponds to or ties in with a League position.

➤ **INVESTIGATION/INFORMATION GATHERING:** when an issue arises that merits action and is already covered by an existing position, a committee may be formed or an individual may volunteer to gather and report on additional information that can be used to strengthen a course of action (advocacy, publication, public meeting, etc.). Informational reports, reference pieces, new data, and background papers can often take the place of unneeded new studies.

➤ **NEW STUDY OR UPDATED STUDY FOR LWVC:** The Board of LWVC has decided that any suggested study or update must come with a scope, committee, budget, and financing.

**The Positions in Brief for the local and State Leagues are inserted in this Voter.** The office has free copies of the Positions in Full, if you are interested.

At the Unit meetings, we will review these positions quickly and decide to retain, drop, or update them. We will then go on to discuss possible new studies or updates. **Please be familiar with our Positions and bring them to your Unit meeting, so the process goes quickly and we can have interesting discussions.**

### New Ideas Needed Prior To Units!

Because we have seven Units, we need to share our thinking with the other Units ahead of time. Please send your preliminary ideas for study, updated study, issue for education and advocacy, or fact-finding to Debra Blum, 890 Cornish Dr., San Diego 92107, 619-225-0353, fax 619-224-5083, email: [johnblum@cox.net](mailto:johnblum@cox.net) **The deadline for these is February 7<sup>th</sup>!**

The League is a grassroots organization which means planning comes from the bottom and works up. **No topic can be adopted at the Convention or Annual Meeting unless it has been introduced at Program Planning!**

### More News from Voter Service

In Fall 2006, we held debates for the following candidates: Chula Vista School Board, Poway City Council, Poway Unified School District, San Ysidro School Board, Imperial Beach Mayor & City Council. My thanks to Sarah Brown, Emmett Greenwald, June Greenwald, Kathleen McCloud, Fran Morgan, Ethel Palmer and Joyce Tavrow. They were great!

--- Betty Weinberger

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### Forum on Healthcare

On Saturday, February 17, Common Cause will present a forum entitled "Healthcare for All: Can We Afford It?" at the Mission Valley Library from noon to 2:00 pm. Sylvia Hampton and Jeanne Brown are involved with the program. The public is invited. See you there?

## Notes on City Government Position

by Norma Damashek, VP Public Policy

As you know, recommendations from program planning can include a new formal study, an update to an established position, focus on action, limited information gathering, reports, or some variation of the above. It's important to keep in mind that we'll need active participation from members to carry out any new recommendations.

### Dilemma: The League Position

This seems to be the perfect time to resolve the dilemma about our Position on City Government. Here's some history. Way back in **1983, the San Diego League put together an informational synopsis** of the way our local government was organized and run. **1993, a study was done to examine the then-existing Manager form of government.** An update was done in **2000 that essentially reinforced League support for a City Manager** form of government but included specific recommendations for a strengthened role for the mayor.

Then in **2004, SD voters passed Proposition F, replacing our City Manager system with a Strong Mayor** form of government on a trial basis. A ballot measure is required to come back to the voters (presumably in 2008) to reconfirm the switchover. It is realistic to assume that voters will confirm it. It is also likely that voters will acquiesce to the mayor's proposals for additional Charter Changes to further strengthen his office.

**And so, here is our dilemma: our Position on City Government is moot.** It no longer serves as our primary basis for action. Resolving this dilemma through another City Government study or update seems a wasteful use of our limited resources. Would it be advisable to **simply declare our present Position null and void?** Suggestions and comments from units and members would be helpful at this point.

**Fortunately, the LWV has several state and national League positions that clearly support a local action agenda in the coming year regarding changes to the balance of power between the mayor and city council.** These include "policies and programs that improve government responsiveness and accountability...protect individual liberties...assure citizen access and participation in governmental decision-making" (LWVC Legislative Goals), as well as "social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans" (LWV Public Policy positions).

**The new political game in the city of San Diego deserves more attention from the public than ever before.** With so few civic organizations stepping up to the plate in our city, the active involvement of the LWVSD remains crucial.



## Spring Fund Raiser!

### “Driving Miss Daisy”

Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Alfred Uhry  
 presented by  
**Theatre 40**, a professional theatre group  
 based in Los Angeles, at the  
**Poway Center for the Performing Arts**  
 15498 Espola Road, Poway, CA 92064

**Sunday, March 18, 2007**  
**2:00 Matinee performance**  
**12:30 Pre-theatre buffet**

We are trying something different in fund-raising this spring --- our first theatre party.  
 We hope Leaguers and their friends will step up and embrace our efforts  
 to raise needed operating funds this year.

The Poway Center’s production stars Gloria Strook (seen in Day of the Locust,  
McMillan & Wife) and Beau Billingslea (The Great White Hope, West Wing).

You probably remember the 1989 film starring Morgan Freeman, Jessica Tandy and Dan Aykroyd. This is the story of an unlikely friendship between an elderly Jewish woman and her African-American chauffeur. The story, based on real people, takes place in Atlanta, Georgia, over a span of several decades. It brings to the surface issues which are sensitive, touching and all too human.

Poway Center for the Performing Arts is a lovely, accessible community theatre for live performances. It is located near Ranch Bernardo, just 7 minutes east of the I-15. You’ll enjoy the drive, easy parking and spacious theatre interior.

The pre-theatre buffet in the Green Room and patio will include your favorites and specialty hors d’oeuvres , gourmet desserts and appropriate midday beverages. There will be time to meet and talk with friends before finding our seats in the theatre (good seats, by the way).

The price for this delightful afternoon will be \$55.

We must have paid reservations by March 9 to plan food service and tickets needed.

**“Driving Miss Daisy” Spring Fund Raiser**

**Reservations must be received by March 9.**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

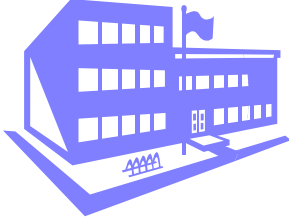
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$55.00 per person)

## Exciting Bus Tour of Redevelopment Areas!

Join us for a tour of some of our redevelopment areas. You learned about redevelopment at your Unit meetings, now see examples in person. Mike Jenkins, our speaker, will be our bus tour guide. We will leave from the north parking lot of the Mission Bay Visitor's Center at 9:30. Exit Hwy. 5 at Clairemont Dr. go west toward the Visitors Center, turn right at the stop sign and left into the parking lot.



We will start with a guided tour of the renovated North Park Theatre. From there we will proceed to City Heights to see the many changes there. A guide from Price Charities will explain the new school, library, community college, police station, recreation center, shopping center, senior housing and parks. This is the largest redevelopment project in the state. At the eastern end we will see the newly established Somali Village Center.

Heading south we will pass through the College Grove Redevelopment Area and make our way to Market Creek Plaza where we will have lunch at Magnolia's on the covered patio. It would be wise to bring a jacket. After a lunch of Chicken Caesar Salad and Peach Cobbler we will head west, then to Market Street, where a lot is happening: Imperial Market Place, Gateway Center Industrial Parks, Lincoln High School Complex and more.

Barrio Logan Project area is next where we will see where the Mercado commercial project was proposed in 1990, still has not happened but where the Mercado Apartments are located. This beautiful complex and has amenities such as child-care on site.



Moving on we will drive through downtown past numerous projects heading toward the NTC project area. There we will have a guide from McMillan Company to give us a directed tour of Liberty Station.

On our trip back to our starting point we will pass through the North Bay Redevelopment Project Area and see the multi-use project built on the site of the old Presidio Nursery in the Morena area, now adjacent to the trolley. From there we will return to the Visitor's Center no later than 3:30.

So, send in your reservations. See the flyer insert in this Voter. The cost of \$40 includes the bus, luncheon, and North Park Theatre tour. Bus seating will be limited and we need a final count by February 13.



### Two Seminars in Wind Energy (\$20 each; \$35 for both)

#### Introduction to Wind Energy, Saturday, February 3

9:30 am-12:30 pm, Cuyamaca College

Historical development of the electric power industry, including deregulation. Lunch is included.

Scott Debenham, Debenham Energy, Lakeside

Alan Ridley, former Clean Cities Coordinator, San Diego Regional Clean Fuels Coalition

#### Wind Farm Tour, Saturday, March 3

9:30 am-12:30 pm at the new Kumeyaay Wind Farm

Guided tour through the Wind Farm with lunch provided.

Meet at Golden Acorn Casino main entrance, 1800 Golden Acorn Way, Campo 91906

Michael Connolly, Councilman, Campo Kumeyaay Nation

Rob Titus, Project Manager, enXco, Kumeyaay Wind Farm

For more information contact Alan Ridley,  
(858) 883-7314 (cell), [alan.ridley@gcccd.edu](mailto:alan.ridley@gcccd.edu)

### Want to Help with Homeowners Elections?

Homeowners Associations must now have elections conducted by an outside authority, e.g. the League. We would like to have a list of potential trainees to take part in this activity. *Members must not offer themselves as representatives of the LWV unless they have undergone LWV training.* Contact Jeanne Brown at (619) 857-1807 or [jhisten@cox.net](mailto:jhisten@cox.net) if you would like to participate.

--- Jeanne Brown

## February Unit Meetings: Local Program Planning -- Bring Your Ideas !




Monday, Feb 12th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Ethel Palmer (858) 675-0590 Sarah Brown 858-578-1503
Monday, Feb 12th 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, Feb 13th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Feb 13th 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of Joyce Janette 6892 Arverne Ct. San Diego, CA 92111	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Feb 14th 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
Wed. Feb 14th 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. Feb 15th 9:30 – 11:30	East San Diego	Home of Barbara Evje 8767 Blue Lake Drive San Diego, CA 92119	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

## LWVSD Calendar — February

2	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	LWVSD Program Committee, S. Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd., 92117
2	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
6	Tues	6:00 p.m.	LWVSD Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
8	Thurs	9:30 p.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
8	Thurs	11:00 a.m.	Discussion Leader Training, LWVSD Office
2/12 to 15			<b>UNITS - Program Planning</b>
19	Mon		<i>Presidents Day</i>
20	Tues	6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee, LWVSD Office
21	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
21	Wed	12:30 p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
22	Thurs	9:30 a.m.	<b>BUS TOUR - Redevelopment</b> , Visitor's Center, Hwy. 5 & Clairemont Dr.
23	Fri	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, 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.*

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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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### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO  
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