



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 71 No. 5

May 2007

San Diego City Council Members to Meet with Leaguers!

Instead of May Units, members and the public will be meeting with their respective San Diego City Council members. Due to the Council schedule, most of these meetings will not be at the same time or place as Unit meetings. In fact, some are at mealtime, so you need to be flexible and creative – go out to eat with your friends and bring them to the meeting. In addition, members of different Units will merge into Council districts. Be sure and come to at least one – it's a great way to ask your questions and get to know your city representative better. Bring friends, relatives, and neighbors as well. Please support your city representative by being there – they have literally squeezed us into their busy schedules.

The Public Policy Committee and the Program Committee have asked them each to respond to the same list of questions – items we are concerned about and/or working on. (See page 4) Some of them may make a statement about issues of interest to them, but most of the time will be spent answering audience questions.

There are three Council members in addition to those scheduled below who do not have enough League members in their district to meet in a public arena, so we plan to meet with them in their offices instead. If you would like to be part of this local "legislative interview", please contact Beryl Flom, 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net.

Here is the schedule of meetings

District 1 – Scott Peters

Monday, May 7, 8:45 a.m., 202 C Street, 3rd Floor 202 C St. is City Hall. You can take public transit or park in Horton Plaza for free if you buy something there or park in the garage for the City Hall building. To do that, exit Hwy. 5 at the Civic Center exit, keep to the left as the ramp splits, immediately turn right on 2nd Ave. You will come straight into the garage at the end of 2nd Ave. Allow time for security scanning. Scott will start at 9:00 a.m.

Continued on page 3

Annual Meeting 2007

- ❖ Continental Breakfast
- ❖ Speaker
- ❖ Business Meeting

**Saturday, June 2, 2007
9:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.**

**Breakfast & Registration \$15
Registration alone \$7**

Join other Leaguers to discuss next year's program and budget and elect officers and directors.

**Mission Valley Branch Library
Meeting Room
Next to Ikea at 2123 Fenton Parkway
San Diego, CA 92108**

Speaker:

- Robert W. Harvey, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent**
- ✓ Their current mission and strategy
 - ✓ San Diego Border Patrol activities
 - ✓ Opportunities for the Border Patrol - locally and nationally

After the meeting, tour this beautiful library.

(See the Annual Meeting insert for important details and how to register)

This program is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the San Diego Public Library. The Library is not responsible for the information presented in this program.

**Be sure to see page 6 for another in our popular
Lunch with League series!**

League of Women Voters 2006-07 Board of Directors

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Admin. Assistant Genoveva Lopez
Flexible hours — (call ahead please)
Phone: (858) 483-8696 FAX: (858) 483-8396

Email: lwwsd@san.rr.com
Website: www.lwvsandiego.org
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League of Women Voters at the United Nations



Dee Aker, Jeanne Brown, Rebecca Booth, and I participated in the annual meeting of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women in New York, February 26 - March 9. The theme of this year's session, the 51st, was the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence against the Girl Child.

Each year delegates from more than 120 countries deliberate for two weeks on a specific topic related to the advancement of women and girls. In addition to the government delegates and approximately 6,000 representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 207 girls were brought to the U.N. from across the globe to share their views and experiences. Madeleine, a 15-year-old from the Democratic Republic of Congo, spoke of the years she was forced to serve as a child soldier after being abducted when she was 11-years-old.

In various conference rooms, experts from around the world gave presentations, while parallel events conducted by NGOs (e.g., LWV) were convened at the Church Center, a 12-story building located across from the U.N. Dee Aker, Laura Taylor, Erika Lopez, and I were panelists in a workshop titled No Excuses: Defending Women's and Girls' Rights in Times of Terror.

As the clock chimed 11:00 pm on March 9, government delegates ended the 51st CSW by adopting four resolutions (addressing the situation of Palestinian women, female genital mutilation, HIV/AIDS, and forced and early marriage) and finalizing the document of Agreed Conclusions that outlined actions governments will take to stop discrimination and violence against the girl child, actions related to poverty, education, health, trafficking, prostitution, pornography, early and forced marriage, child labor, child soldiers and armed conflict, and all forms of violence.

In addition, we had an opportunity to talk with Doris Schapira, LWVUS Representative to the United Nations, who participates on an almost-daily basis at the U.N., negotiating on behalf of League positions concerning women's and girl's rights. In her annual report, Doris wrote ". . . we need to remember the need of all humanity for a successful United Nations and to ensure that a greater understanding of the work of the U.N. is shared not only with LWV members, but that all LWVs make an effort to share the good work of the U.N. within our communities." We applaud Doris for her work on behalf of the LWV and the U.N.

—Anne Hoiberg, Co-chair,
International Relations Committee

Leaguers meet with City Council Members (continued from page 1)

District 2 – Kevin Faulconer

Thursday, May 17, 8:45 a.m., 202 C Street, 3rd Floor. See notes for District 1. Kevin will start at 9:00 a.m.

District 5 – Brian Maienschein

Monday, May 7, 9:45 a.m., San Diego National Bank, 2nd Floor Community Room, 16789 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo. This is the usual meeting place for the RB Unit. ... Brian will start at 10:00 a.m.

District 6 – Donna Frye

Wednesday, May 9, 5:30 p.m., Bayside Community Center, 2202 Comstock, Linda Vista 92111. Comstock crosses Linda Vista Road near the Linda

Vista Library. Bayside Community Center is on the west side of Linda Vista Road and looks like a little church, but the name is very visible on the front of it. There is parking for 30 cars behind the building. Donna will start at 6:00 p.m.

District 7 – Jim Madaffer

Tuesday, May 15th at 12:30 p.m. at the new College-Rolando Public Library meeting room, 6600 Montezuma Rd. Take College Ave. south off of Hwy. 8, turn left on Montezuma. The library is near the intersection of Montezuma and El Cajon Blvd. Jim will start at 12:30 p.m. Please plan to arrive by 12:15 p.m. He will speak for an hour between Council sessions.

What Council District Are You In?

The Membership Committee is mailing an interest survey to all of our members about the time you renew your dues in June or July. We are asking that you list your City Council District along with your name and address. We will add this information to the membership list, so we can sort you that way in the database. If you do not know your District, please go to the website www.sdvote.com. In the left column, you will see, "What are my?" so click it. Then you will see "electing districts" and click there. In addition to your City Council District, you will have a list of all of your voting districts for County, State, and National elections. If you do not have computer access, call the League office at 858-483-8696 and we'll do it for you.



Membership News Introduction to the League

An information meeting for New Members will be held Saturday May 5th, 10:30 to 12:30 at the Malcolm X Library. The address is 5148 Market St., San Diego, 619-527-3405. All are welcome!
—Peggy Finch, Membership Chair

Update on "Driving Miss Daisy"



This note is to say thank you for all your wonderful work on the Theatre fund raiser! I heard so many nice compliments on our event. People enjoyed the show and they especially enjoyed our pre-curtain reception with our gourmet and delicious food creations! I thought folks were in a very festive mood during the event – even husbands! We were kind of a last minute ad hoc committee, but we really clicked.

We think the final amount raised will be in the neighborhood of \$1000!

—Sarah Brown,
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee



Voter Schedule for Summer

There will be no Voter in June. Among other things, the Summer issue, to be received in July, will contain news of our Annual Meeting and the State Convention. Deadline for the issue will be June 15.

—Faye Rose,
Voter Editor



Questions for Council Interviews May, 2007

The Public Policy and the Program Committees have written four questions for the Council members to answer and then the meetings will be open for your questions.

1) Prop C, the Managed Competition proposition

Background: Proposals to contract out city services are being developed by the Mayor's office. Discussion about creating a private conservancy to oversee Balboa Park has already begun. At the same time, new reports are emerging about faulty oversight and major abuses involving government contracting at the national level.

Question: Since City Council authority is limited to either accepting or rejecting on an all or nothing basis, with no changes permitted the Mayor's choice of private contractors for outsourced city services, how will you make sure *beforehand* that the city is really saving money and that quality/level of service will not be sacrificed when outsourcing a city service? How do you intend to be informed and offer input into a privatization process *prior* to the day the Mayor brings a contract to you for a vote? Will there be any opportunity for the public to be heard or heeded *during* the process?

2) Redevelopment:

Background: Redevelopment helps to keep property taxes local; the downside is that it diverts dollars that would otherwise flow into our General Fund.

Question: Since conditions of blight no longer exist in our successful downtown redevelopment area, do you believe the time has come to phase out CCDC, our downtown redevelopment corporation? Do you agree with several observers that CCDC has become so politically powerful that it might be impossible to phase it out for many years to come?

3) Financial recovery:

Background: Under ordinary circumstances, producing a 5-year budget for the city would be viewed as a useful exercise. However, the Mayor's "5-year Financial Outlook" is *not* a long range budget proposal or a 5-year plan. It is a description of how the city's mounting debt results in major budget shortfalls over the coming 5 years.

Question: Will you take the lead in calling for a genuine long range financial recovery plan that provides the public with a) an honest, complete, and understandable picture of the city's financial state; and b) a menu of options, including timeframes, for paying off billions of dollars of debt while maintaining a reasonable quality of life?

4) Charter Change:

Background: Several major charter changes will be put to the voters on the 2008 city ballot. The Mayor has created an appointed charter review committee for this purpose, despite the fact that it is recognized that a public Charter Review Commission is the best vehicle to properly study, evaluate, and propose constructive changes to a city's charter.



Washington D.C.: Got Voting Rights?

Like most Americans, I did not know that the District of Columbia, our nation's capital, does not have full voting rights. When one pauses to take a moment to ponder this - it can cause puzzled looks to fall upon the face, and thoughts like "why not!?" to run across the mind. And to make matters more egregiously the United States is the *only democratic country in the world* that has such an arrangement (which is in direct violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Congress in 1992). This is one of the many reasons why the League of Women Voters has designated Washington D.C. Voting Rights as one of its priority issues this year, and is diligently working to educate and advocate on its behalf.

So what does this really mean? It means that Congress has exclusive authority over D.C.'s local budget and can annul laws it passes. Additionally, Washington D.C. does not have control over its local judiciary and prison systems; they are appointed by the President. **AND** it means D.C. gets no votes in the Senate or the House.

At its core, the residents of our nation's capital live in a state of "taxation without representation". They pay one of the highest per capita federal income taxes in the country, fight in America's wars, serve on juries and yet still do not have full voting representation. Further, they pay their own version of state taxes, operate just like a "normal" state in over 500 ways, (for instance, they have their own police force, school system, legal code, utility regulations etc.), but still D.C. residents are not allowed to have a say in how their tax dollars are spent. Despite the

fact that 63% of its Gross State Product (GSP is a major indicator of overall economic vitality) is from private industry, and that its GSP is ranked higher than 15 other states.

Though perhaps some of the most profound and compelling evidence is found when looking at the rate at which D.C. Veterans have fought and died for this country in comparison with other states of similar size. When compared to the State of Wyoming, which is similar in population size and has full voting representation, over 2 ½ times more D.C. Veterans served in World I & II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm than those in Wyoming (D.C. Veterans = 192,406 & Wyoming Veterans = 75, 372). Similarly, the total amount of D.C. Veterans who died in battle in the previously mentioned wars is 1,683 as compared to 1,061 for Wyoming. - It seems appalling that these D.C. Veterans, who have so bravely served for their own country, are not allowed the same democratic freedoms as their brothers and sisters in other states.

The many political and socio-economic reasons why our nation's capital is the way it is today is a complex history and sociology lesson spanning over a 200 years (that I'll gladly spare you here). But what is amazing is that in November 2006, the newly elected House Speaker Nancy Pelosi suggested a rule that would give D.C. non-voting Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton voting power on the House Floor, and then just over two months later on January 5th, 2007, House Speaker Pelosi changed her position and did not agree to give D.C. Delegate Norton permission to vote. **I wonder why?**

----- Sarah Hurd, LWVSD President

Editor's Note: At this writing, the National LWV Update had pertinent news!

League Staff Marches for DC Voting Rights, Celebrates Passage of Legislation. We are pleased to report that the DC House Voting Rights Act of 2007 has passed the House of Representatives. . . The fight will now move on to the Senate. Earlier this week, the League staff came out in full force, joining thousands of DC citizens in a march and rally at the Capitol. . . Also this week, the League was highlighted in a *Washington Post* story, "A Groundswell of Activism", that detailed the efforts League members nationwide are making to educate their communities about the lack of voting rights in our nation's capital.

From their news release: " . . . The "DC House Voting Rights Act," sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D, DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R, VA), provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for DC and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House. . . ."

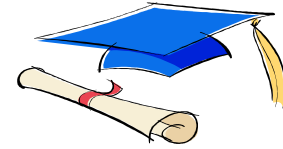
League of Women Voters of San Diego

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 of San Diego City Schools

Dr. Randolph Ward, Superintendent of 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 education 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 are each 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 _____

LWVSD Calendar — May

May			
1	Tues	6:00 p.m.	LWVSD Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
3	Thurs	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
4	Fri.	10:30 a.m	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
			UNITS - Meetings with City Council Members
7	Mon	9:30a.m.	Councilman Brian Maienschein, District 5 San Diego National Bank, Community Rm, 16789 Bernardo Center Dr.
9	Wed	5:30p.m.	Councilwoman Donna Frye, District 6, Bayside Community Center, 2202 Comstock Street
11	Fri	8:45a.m.	Councilman Scott Peters, District 1, City Hall, 3rd Floor, 202 C Street
13	Sun		<i>Mother's Day</i>
15	Tues	12:15p.m.	Councilman Jim Madaffer, District 7, College-Rolando Public Library, 6600 Montezuma Road 92115
		6:30 p.m.	Executive Committee, LWVSD Office
16	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
		12:30 p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
17	Thurs	8:45 a.m.	Councilman Kevin Faulconer, District 2 City Hall, 3rd Floor, 202 C Street
5/17 to 5/20			LWVC CONVENTION, Bakersfield
23	Wed.	11:00-1:30 p.m.	LUNCH WITH LEAGUE - City & County Superintendents, County Office of Education
25	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
28	Mon		<i>Memorial Day</i>
JUNE			
1	Fri.	10:30 a.m	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	LWVSD Program Committee, S. Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd., 92117
2	Sat.	9:30–12:30 p.m	LWVSD ANNUAL MEETING, Mission Valley Library
6/11 to 6/14			UNITS - Social Get Together
17			<i>Father's Day</i>
20	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
22	Fri	9:30 a.m.	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.

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Let us be the Treasurer for your political campaign or principal book-keepers, working with your Treasurer! Your political future depends on the integrity of your financial management and reporting. We have been in the business of earning our clients' trust for over 50 years.



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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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