



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 71 No. 8

October 2007

October Unit Meetings --- Immigration Study Consensus

This Fall, we have been sponsoring "Lunches with League" with knowledgeable speakers on various aspects of the immigration issue to educate our members and the public. It's a little like four blindfolded people touching an elephant in various places and describing how it felt to them. There are so many aspects to it and many of them are considered in the consensus questions written by the LWVUS Task Force on Immigration.

Leagues throughout the U.S. will be considering these questions in a discussion format. The "feeling" of the group (each local League) will then be submitted to LWVUS for them to write a position based on what the members think. We will address these questions at the Unit meetings in both October and November, so it's important that you attend both of them. (Remember, if your schedule prevents you from attending the Unit you normally do, go to another one --- and meet a new group of friendly Leaguers!)

A discussion leader will guide the group toward a conclusive answer for each question. We will do half the questions in October and half in November. There are many topics to consider --- most of them are opinion questions, so the resource people will not be doing a presentation. Hopefully, you have been informing yourself by reading, listening, talking to people, and **attending the Luncheons!** The questions are listed on page 3. You might want to consult the information in the past two issues of the *Voter* magazine from the national League and eight articles posted on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org (Follow the prompts to the immigration consensus. You may need to ask them for your password which is your membership number in their files, but they will email you back with it quickly.)

The final luncheon on immigration is at Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant on Friday, October 26th at 11:30 a.m. Please see the flyer enclosed in this *Voter* and make your reservation. Feel free to invite friends or relatives - we love a lively discussion!

---Beryl Flom and Shirley Larson,
Program Co-Chairs

LWVC Regional Workshop in North County

All Leaguers, especially Board members and unit chairs, are invited and encouraged to attend a regional training workshop hosted by LWV North Coast San Diego County on Saturday, October 27 in San Marcos. LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama will present a new class, "21st Century League." This is an opportunity to meet and hear from our newly elected state president. We have combined Voter Service, Membership and Community Visibility into a new and exciting class. Part of the How To Do A Study class will involve the new state study process.

Saturday, Oct 27, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Lake San Marcos Resort and Country Club
1750 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078

Registration Closes: Oct 22, 11:59 PM

Member Price Workshop and lunch \$25.00
Workshop only \$15.00

Event Coordinator:

Jennifer Joseph jjoseph@lwvc.org 888-870-8683

Questions? Need directions?

Jeanne Brown jhisten@cox.net 619-857-1807

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Volunteers Needed

Party Planner Fund Raiser Person and Ideas Lawyer, Accountant

Person for Computer work if you know people who are members and we need your help. We need help at the office and committee members to get all of our commitments completed. Please call Shirley for details

Shirley Vaine, President
League of Women Voters of San Diego
858-674-4889

President's Update



A change in the "League Culture" is upon us, and it feels good. Discussions have been taking place at the National League level on new ways to increase membership. A pilot project called the Membership Recruitment Initiative Year 2 for recruiting new members has been established.

California is one of the few states that has been chosen to kick off the program. I have just returned from a two-day workshop on how to implement the program which I want to share with you, it will be stimulating, fun and simple! Several local Leagues have chosen to be involved, yet the activities will affect all 68 Leagues in California.

The plan is to increase membership 5% over the next 12 months. This will be accomplished in doing our regular programs, such as Voter Service, Education, Lunches, Registration ---- all the things we do ----- and then purposely adding a couple of extra ingredients. The pilot program last year proved to be a success in other states and in Oakland, California.

There is nothing to lose, only new members to gain. See page 4 for the complete story on the implementation of this exciting program.

Shirley Vaine, President

LWV Holiday Party

Mark your calendars now ! Our celebration of the Holiday Season will begin this year with a little difference. The San Diego League and friends of the League will meet on **Sunday**, December 9, at 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM for a catered Brunch Celebration of the Season event at the Joan B. Kroc Center for Peace and Justice on the University of San Diego campus.

A Sunday event will eliminate the parking competition with students, not to mention avoiding night driving. League members are encouraged to invite their friends and others to join in the fun of the Silent Auction. Please begin to think about what you and your Unit can donate to our celebration, which benefits our SD League! Gift Certificates are wonderful donations ---- can you think of a unique one?

If you would like to get in the spirit and help us decorate or be active in planning the event, please contact me.

Jody Tadder, (858) 277-4576

I'd love to have your help!

(continued from page 1)

Consensus questions on Immigration Study

PLEASE RANK THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 1,2,3 and 4b IN ORDER OF THEIR IMPORTANCE TO YOU. AFTER DISCUSSION, EACH UNIT SHOULD SETTLE ON ONE RANKING TO EACH QUESTION, IF POSSIBLE.

- 1) **What criteria should federal immigration laws take into consideration?** Ethnic and cultural diversity? Environmental impact? Economic, business, and service employment needs? Family reunification? History of criminal activity? Humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries? Immigrant characteristics (age and health)? Rights of workers to safe work site and livable wage? Rights of families to remain together? Rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law? Education and training?
- 2) **How should unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. be treated?** Deported? Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status? Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on needs of U.S. employers? All allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by paying taxes, learning English, etc.? If deported, assessed fines before possible re-entry? Assessed fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status?
- 3) **For whom should federal immigration law provide legal entry into the U.S. in an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs)?** Immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S.? Entering the U.S. to meet labor needs? Entering the U.S. as students? Entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country?

EACH UNIT SHOULD TRY TO ARRIVE AT CONSENSUS ON QUESTIONS 4a, 5 AND 6. UNITS CAN INCLUDE MINORITY OPINIONS IN NOTES IF NEEDED.

- 4) a. **In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, should Federal immigration law include a Social Security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.?**
- 4) b. **How should Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants be enforced?** Physical barriers and surveillance at borders? Increased personnel at land, air, and sea entry points? More effective tracking of persons with non-immigration visas until they leave the country? Verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers? Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status? Improved technology for sharing information among Federal agencies? A program to allow immigrant workers to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs? Significant fines for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees?
- 5) **How should Federal immigration law balance the federal financial benefits from immigrants with the state and local costs that are borne by those with large immigrant populations?**
- 6) **Is it possible for Federal immigration law to be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to help proactively improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations?**

(continued from page 2)

New Membership Recruitment Project

The National League has seen a drop in membership over the past 30 years. National staff, once at 145 people, is now 45. The question was, can we do anything about this decrease in membership and the answer came back a rousing YES, with guidance from a consulting firm hired by National and with your involvement.

Spitfire Strategies evaluated LWWUS from head to toe, interviewing League members, reviewing stacks of pages of history and looking into the past three years of press stories to see what media coverage League did receive. The media scan was most interesting to me, revealing that over those years, 700 pieces of print covered these items: 50% calendar events, 20% obituary columns on deceased members (yikes!), and 30% discussing League's community activities.

After all the research, it was recommended that our target market should be retiring baby boomers. Since our average age is 60, it would be difficult to attract 25-year-olds to our organization, unless they are really mature and intellectual. Age 50 to 65 is the goal, especially educated professionals, who now have more time on their hands and want to stay active. Studies have also shown this group is concerned about healthcare, child care, elder care, affordable housing and belief in helping others. We want people who have been engaged in civic issues in the past and want to keep participating in a strong, safe, and vibrant community.

This is how the new program will work:

1. Everything we do must have a press release; invite the press to attend our events.
2. Co-sponsor more with other organizations with forums, voter registration activities, etc.
3. ASK the public at any and all activities to join the League, become a member.

So what's new you ask?

"Asking" at everything we participate in for people to join with us in our good work.

Weaving in the request in press releases, lunches, speaking engagements.

The League of Women Voters is still the most respected & trusted women's organization in the United States. Most people join when they are asked to attend a meeting or forum. Yet for years many people have not been hearing that LWW is where leaders volunteer to make democracy work. The public needs to be reminded that our communities are only as strong, safe and healthy as our residents are willing to make them.

What can you do now to help with our membership campaign?

1. List the other organizations you belong to; ask them if they need a speaker.
2. Would they like to co-sponsor a voter registration drive with the League?
3. Your ideas?

Please call me if you would like to be involved in this dynamic campaign.

Shirley Vaine, President
858-674-4889

October Unit Meetings: Immigration Study

Monday, Oct. 8th 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	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, Oct. 8th 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, Oct. 9th 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Oct. 9th 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	The New North University City Community Library, corner of Nobel and Judicial Drives Note New Location	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wed., Oct. 10th 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92117	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Oct. 10th 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thurs. Oct. 11th 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	Home of Barbara Evje 8767 Blue Lake Drive San Diego, CA 92119	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — October

October			
10/4	Thurs.	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
10/4	Thurs.	10:30a.m.	Unit Discussion Leader Training, LWVSD Office
10/5	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/8	Mon.		<i>Columbus Day</i>
10/8 to 11			UNITS - IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS
10/17	Wed.	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
10/17	Wed.	12:30 p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
10/24			UN Day
10/26	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/26	Fri.	11:30 a.m.	IMMIGRATION LUNCHEON , Tom Ham's
10/26	Fri.	after Luncheon	Program Committee, Jeanne Brown's home 4374 Santa Cruz Ave., San Diego, CA 92107
10/27	Sat.	9:30 - 2:30	LWVC Regionals, San Marcos

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.

Testimony on Construction and Demolition Recycling

The League of Women Voters of San Diego supports the City's proposal to implement a Construction and Demolition Recycling program whereby fees are collected with permits to ensure that contractors collect co-mingled C & D materials and take them to a site for separation and eventual reuse. The long-term consequences of not recycling as much waste as possible are huge -- the time, effort and money needed to site a new landfill is overwhelming. The City must extend the Miramar Landfill as soon as possible as well as make the citizens aware of the situation. We do have some concerns, however:

- 1) Is it more economical for the City to have its own mixed C&D facility rather than to outsource these materials to a private company who will profit from their sale? The League recommends a cost/benefit analysis of these two options, which should include the long-term use of land at the Miramar Landfill for the separation facility. (Background information for Leaguers: Such an ordinance was passed by the Council in 2005 but not implemented by the Mayor.)
- 2) Because these materials are now a resource for energy and other products, the city should ensure that they are sold and not given to private companies.
- 3) The fees charged for recycling should benefit the participants and not punish them. It is important to not raise the fees so much that fly-dumping or hiding materials in loads occur. (Background for Leaguers: The fees for recycling are currently higher than for dumping.)
- 4) Increasing the fees on replacement of damaged or lost refuse containers should not be shown as a source of revenue connected to C & D recycling; they are not related and the public should not associate them with each other.
- 5) The League has concerns about converting most of the green waste to energy; it is better used for composting which will enrich our soils and reduce water usage.
- 6) Education of the contractors and permit-holders is essential; there must be a real effort to do this to ensure compliance. It will take more than making materials available to them.

Beryl Flom, Vice-president and Program Co-chair

HOA Elections

About one year ago, the state passed a law saying that Homeowners Associations (HOA) must have their elections supervised by an independent organization or person. The LWV of California has worked out the details so that League members can be trained and paid to do this. It has the potential of being a good source of income for the League. Our members may belong to a HOA that needs this oversight --- and some do not seem to be aware of the new law. We need to market ourselves and our services.

Depending upon the situation, it is recommended that the League help plan the election and have control of all of the aspects of doing it. Recently, we have been involved in counting ballots for various groups which takes less time and thus brings in less revenue. If you are interested in helping with this new service that the League is offering, please contact

---Jeanne Brown at 619-224-1807

jhisten@cox.net .

Membership:

Please welcome our recent new members.

Mary Beebe	92122
Nancy Cuddy	92118
Kitty Calavita	92122
Patricia W. Dellios	92124
Virginia Huddleston	92128
Carol Fait Murray	92037

Governor's Committee on "Excellence In Education" to Present a Far-Reaching Proposal to Him in January

Education reform is up and running again!

How good is your memory? Do you remember the **2002 MASTER PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EDUCATION?** It was the result of four years of work by leading experts on educational issues both within and outside of California. Our San Diego Senator, Dede Alpert, was its chairperson and guiding light. She chaired a forum the LWVSD held here in San Diego with local educators who had worked on the plan shortly before she was termed-out of the California Senate.

Do you remember that the last night the Legislature was in session, they moved the funds that had been designated for the Master Plan over to pay the settlement for the Williams class action lawsuit. As disappointed as were all of us who had worked on the Master Plan, there was general agreement that the Williams settlement was absolutely necessary to improve the deplorable conditions in too many of California's schools.

Then a new Governor was elected. Other matters than education held his attention until the spring of 2005 when Governor Schwarzenegger created a **Committee on Excellence in Education** (CEE). The chairman is Dr. Theodore R. Mitchell, a member of the State Board of Education. Its vice chair is none other than our former Senator, Dede Alpert!

The Governor charged the CEE with examining four interrelated K-12 policy issues --- finance, governance, teacher recruitment and training, and the preparation and retention of school administrators. Most of the major foundations in California put up substantial funds to research best practices in each of these areas. You can get their results on a web site called "Getting Down to the Facts."

This information was used by the Committee when they worked with researchers, policy experts, and stakeholders in California public education to prepare its recommendations to the Governor.

Before it finalizes those recommendations, the CEE is seeking input from local communities. Ruberta Castro, LWVSD Education Director, and Frances Venn attended a community forum on the draft proposal September 6th. San Diego County Superintendent Randolph Ward hosted the meeting; he is also on the committee. Dr. Ted Weaver, Senator Dede Alpert and the State's Secretary of Education led the discussion. The room was crowded with San Diegans who were anxious to speak about California's public education system.

Dr. Ward told Ruberta and Frances that the CEE expects to present its proposal to the Governor in January. He expected that discussions will be taking place in February on the Governor's proposal and the CEE's recommendations throughout the state of California. The LWVC has been hard at work making sure that our updated education positions are well known by the committee members. The LWVSD Education Committee will be discussing the Committee's recommendations at its next meetings on October 17, at 12:30. We welcome your input. In the meantime you can learn more about the Committee's work on www.everychildprepared.org

On another subject, the Education Committee has been asked to formulate criteria for choosing a new Superintendent for City Schools. Please join us in this.

--- Frances Venn and Ruberta Castro, Education Committee



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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

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