



San Diego Voter

Vol. 74 No. 1

September 2009

Your League: Helping You Follow The Healthcare Debate!

This Fall, the League will delve into many of the issues being discussed for healthcare reform. We have two thought-provoking luncheons planned, and two Unit meetings will provide valuable background information. Be sure you participate in all four events so that you can become actively involved in reforming healthcare and costs.

Tuesday, September 22nd, "Lunch with League"
Retired Senator Sheila Kuehl, author of the Single Payer plan
will speak on
"What's So Great About Single Payer?"
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Hilton Hotel Harbor Island
(Note new location....just before you reach Tom Ham's)

SB 840 has been reintroduced in the state legislature by State Senator Leno and is now called SB 810. Single Payer has passed the State Legislature twice but has been vetoed by the Governor both times. The Healthcare position held by the LWVUS is summarized on page 3. The Lobby Corps of LWVUS is working to get these principles into the bills being written in the House and the Senate. Meanwhile, the LWV of California is supporting a Single Payer plan.

There are several very generous co-sponsors of these luncheons: The League of Women Voters of San Diego County, The Older Women's League (OWL), the California Physicians Alliance (CAPA), Healthcare for All, the California School Employees Association, Center for Policy Initiatives (CPI), and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

We know you have many questions and concerns about this topic that affects us all. Do you think health care is a right? If so, it must be universal and it must not bankrupt our nation or its people. Come - join the debate - and share your thoughts with our speakers and fellow members.

We expect a crowd, so don't delay in making your reservations.

September Units:

Information on the various bills and the terminology being used will be presented by members of the LWVSD Subcommittee on Healthcare.

October 20th, "Lunch with League"

Dr. Gerald Kominski, Associate Director of UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research and Professor of Health Services, UCLA School of Public Health, will speak on "Health Care Reform: Can We Pass the Final Hurdle?" **Jeffrey Gordon, M.D.** of the California Physicians Alliance will conclude with the political dynamics and how to become more involved.

November Units:

Will feature a video titled "Sick Around the World" produced by Frontline, showing the success of healthcare delivery in various industrialized nations.

See page 5 for an exciting change planned for Units in October!

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July 2009 - June 2010
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Opinion Piece

On the recent Women's Equality Day when we commemorated the 19th Amendment ratifying women's right to vote, many of us pondered why women's rights are still of little importance to most people. Enactment of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in late January and the lifting of the "gag rule" pertaining to global reproductive health education gave us hope that women's issues would again receive attention and resolution, only to be disappointed with a fizzling of concern about such items on the women's rights agenda as ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the end of violence against women.

At the national level, President Obama identified three treaties, one being CEDAW, which he sent to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent. It was hoped that CEDAW ratification would occur before International Women's Day on March 8; however, Senatorial hearings have yet to be scheduled, much less a vote in the full Senate.

On June 26, President Obama appointed Lynn Rosenthal to serve as his White House Advisor on Violence against Women. We are eager to learn about her plans to end gender violence.

In California, women were disappointed when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger cut millions of social service funds from the budget. With the stroke of his pen, the Governor eliminated State funding of shelters for victims of domestic violence! Perhaps such action indicates that the Governor has signaled the end to violence against women and that there is no need to provide a safe haven for abused women. He will now have to serve as the leader to teach men and boys that women and girls are not to be slapped, punched, pushed, kicked, verbally abused, burned with cigarettes, raped, strangled, knifed, shot, run over, sexually or psychologically abused.

However, in the event that he has not ended all forms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women and girls by Super Bowl weekend, the time when filled-to-capacity California shelters turn away domestic violence victims, the Governor should graciously open his homes to all domestic violence victims to save their lives and protect their children. With 16,759 domestic violence and 845 rape cases reported in 2008 to law enforcement in San Diego County, the Governor has his work cut out for him: to end violence against women and girls to support his action of eliminating shelter funding.

Women's issues continue to be shifted from front and center into another holding pattern while other "more important" crises dominate our lives. However, all crises impact women, such as Health Care Reform, which will be addressed at our upcoming luncheons on September 22 and October 20. Until then, let's beat the drums for Health Care Reform and Women's Rights — and an end to gender violence!

---Anne Hoiberg

We welcome all member's opinions— e-mail the Voter Editor at frose@mail.sdsu.edu

LWVSD Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan, but wholeheartedly political, working to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

(Continued from page 1)

The LWV Position on Healthcare

(In part – see page 69 of Impact on Issues for full wording.)

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

Basic Level of Care Should Include:

- Prevention of disease
- Health promotion and education
- Primary care
- Acute care
- Long-term care
- Mental health care
- Dental, vision and hearing care are important, but a lower priority.

The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes. As the U.S. moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable. The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system...and the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

Cost Control Should Include:

- The reduction of administrative costs
- Regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment
- The establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers
- Malpractice reform
- The use of managed care
- Utilization review of treatment
- Mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment
- Consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

---Beryl Flom, Vice President/Program

Fire Protection

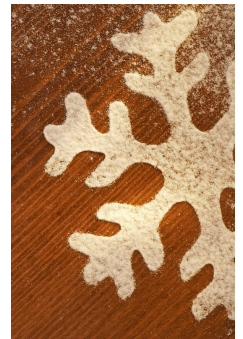


Next March, the LWVSD will be taking consensus on county fire protection. The Program Committee needs people who are familiar with the topic to present it to Unit meetings.

The LWV of SD County's Fire Protection Committee is now meeting to prepare that information for our members. They meet once a month on Saturday mornings. LWVSD just needs a few members to attend some of their meetings so they could do the presentation to a couple of Units. Please contact Beryl Flom 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net if you could help with this mini project.

Save the Date and Your Items!

Please save new and gently used items for the Silent Auction which will take place at the Holiday Party, Wednesday, December 2, at the home of Margaret and John Stevenson. If you have questions please contact me.



---Catherine Stoll, 858-755-4119,
cstoll@san.rr.com

September Unit Meetings: Examining the Healthcare Debate!

Tuesday, Sep. 8 9:30 – 11:30 AM Note: Day Change	North Shores/ Point Loma	Pacific Beach Library 4275 Cass Street San Diego, CA 92109	Shirley Walkoe, (619) 223-6314 Nancy Witt, (619) 222-7230
Tuesday, Sep. 8 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Catherine Stoll, (858) 755-4119
Wednesday, Sep. 9 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, Sep. 10 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje, (619) 462-4772
Tuesday, Sep. 10 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Joan Dahlin, (858) 454-5019 Sherry Bloom, 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Saturday, Sep. 11 10:00 - 12:00 PM	Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	La Quita Robbins, (619) 470-9095 Gwen Pamplin, (619) 263-1778
Monday, Sep. 14 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, Sep. 14 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Coronado Unit New Unit!	Winn Room, Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy, (619) 437-4597
Monday, Sep. 14 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

LWVSD Calendar — September

9/1	Tues.	5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
9/3	Thur.	9:30 am	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
9/4	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
9/7	Mon.		<i>Labor Day</i>
9/8-14			Units- Basics of Healthcare
9/16	Wed.	12:30 p.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
9/18	Fri.		<i>Rosh Hashonah begins at sundown</i>
9/21	Mon.	10:00 am	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
9/22	Tues.	11:30 am	Sheila Kuehl, “What’s So Great about Single-Payer?” Lunch w/ League, Hilton Harbor Island
9/25	Fri.	9:30a.m.	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
9/25	Fri.	12:00 (noon)	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
9/27	Sun.		<i>Yom Kippur begins at sundown</i>

Membership

Please welcome new members who joined
in April, May, June & July 2009.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
Claire Butler	91910	Betty McGovern	92103
Cynthia Crosby	92131	Beverly McKee	92107
Joan El Wardani	92037	Ross E. Porter	92101
Dolores Fischer	91932	Marcia C. Sachs	92120
Jacqueline Fogel	92107	Elaine L. Sacks	92037
Caroline Frederick	92118	Georgia Scheingross	92117
Angela Garcia-Sims	92118	Jeannette V. Smith	92117
Jacqueline Huffer	92116	Jenice Staniford	92115
Shirley Kriet	92118	Mr. & Mrs. David Tessmer	92122
Susan Leonard	92116	Mildred Wood	92123
Ann A. McDonald	92119	Betty McGovern	92103

Units Can Make A Difference!

In planning the League year 2009-10, the Board is challenging Units to discuss various options so that they get more actively involved in their neighborhood or in the city. We are reserving the October and April Unit times for this project with the thought that the discussion would occur in October and a project would be decided upon. By April, it would be ready for presentation unless a presentation doesn't fit with the project.

In order to get the Units thinking about all of the possibilities, the Board came up with a short list of suggestions:

- Read a book - select it in October and discuss it in April....evaluate any action
- Select a video topic in October and watch it and discuss it in April. Develop points to take some action from it – even if it is to see more videos the topic
- Members of the Unit volunteer regularly at a place you have learned about in League meetings such as the Family Justice Center or SPIN (Supportive Parent Information Network) – helping people apply for food stamps, reading to children in elementary schools, the police department, or the food bank
- Plan a general meeting for the whole membership and the public on a topic that your group is most interested in to enlighten others on it
- Do some research on a topic - develop a topic that is a concern or of interest to the group in October and then report back to the Unit in April
- Set up an observation of your area's Planning Council or Town Council and discussion with perhaps some action to follow
- Invite a speaker to your Unit - discuss and take some action
- Plan a tour for your Unit or for the whole membership – e.g, the border
- Visit preschools in your neighborhood as part of the Education Committee's mini-study on early education – plan some report for additional study or action
- Hold a fundraiser for the League or work at the polls and donate the money earned

---Beryl Flom, Vice President/Program



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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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