



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

VOTER

February 2014

Volume 78, No. 6

February Unit Meetings: Focus on Agriculture

In February our LWVSD units will be learning more about the Agriculture Industry to help us understand the consensus questions that we will be answering at a General Meeting in March. There will be facilitators at each unit who will lead us through a set of 20 questions. These questions were designed by the local committee through their research in GMOs and food labeling, herbicides and pesticides, antibiotics in livestock, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, and current agriculture finance issues including consolidation, crop subsidies and the regulatory process.

We will look at our Agricultural Position in its present form and address the scope of this update. We will be addressing Financial, Legal, Regulatory/Oversight in Agriculture today and then Financial, Legal, Regulatory/Oversight in the future of Agriculture.



Because there is so much information, we want to give you a little now in this article but the majority can be found in the **Agriculture article in this month's ILO Voter.** It is inserted in this edition along with more information on-line on our website www.lwvsandiego.org

GMOs

To understand GMOs, we have to understand what genetic modification (GM) or genetic engineering (GE) really is. There are three main types of genetic selection.

Natural Selection is the process where organisms with advantageous traits outcompete other organisms of their species, have more offspring and over time become the dominant subspecies. An example is that polar bears dominate in the Arctic with Sun Bears in the tropics.

(continued on page 5)



Details and sign-up information in the March Voter and online.

Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting ~ March 15

Meeting details and more study materials at www.lwvsandiego.org and <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org>



Restoring Respect LWVC Regional Workshop ~ March 22

Presented by LWV North County

www.lwvncsd.org
<http://www.sandiego.edu/restoringrespect/>

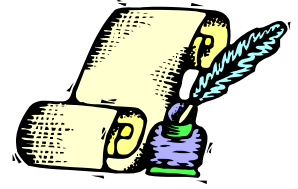


Earth Day ~ April 27

The League needs volunteers to plan and to staff our booth. For more information, contact Jeanne Brown at jhisten.brown@gmail.com.



Co-president's Message



It's an exciting time for the San Diego League. We are heading full speed toward our 2015 State Convention. We just can't talk about it enough because there is so much to do. An excellent team has been assembled to work on all the aspects of this project. Remember, if you would like to be involved in any way, you just have to tell us!

Your Legislative Committee has also been busy conducting interviews. We have met with Assemblywoman Toni Atkins (a League member) and with a Sr. Field Representative for Assemblyman Brian Jones. An interview is scheduled with Assemblywoman Shirley Weber on February 7. The LWVC encourages local leagues to interview their state legislators. It is an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities and for League members to learn more about how state legislators' actions will affect their communities. These interviews are important because they increase League visibility and makes legislators more aware of our interest. If you would like to participate next year, just let us know.

I would like to personally thank each of you for your continued support of League. We cannot accomplish what we would like without the financial support and commitment from each of you. League membership is a continuing issue so if you are talking to your friends and family about issues they care about, remind them of the League's mission and suggest they join.

~ Donna Bartlett-May, Co-president

League Member Honored



Jewell Hooper, a 94 year old member of LWVSD's Southeast Unit, was the 29th recipient of the Human Dignity Award presented at the YMCA's annual Human Dignity Award breakfast on Friday, January 17. The *Union Tribune* article reads boldly: "Recipient Urges More Knowledge About Voting Issues."

"Hooper graciously accepted the honor and used the moment to call on others to address one of her many causes: voter ignorance.

"'Dr. King and many others fought ferociously for us to have the right to vote,' she said. 'Somebody needs to fight to give us the education about what we're voting for.'"

"'Hooper also said American children should at least know the answers to the same tests that immigrants take to become U.S. citizens.'"

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 For information, use address above.


February Units ~ Agricultural Study

Sat, Feb 8 10 am-noon	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street, San Diego 92105	Sue Rogers.....619-233-1744
Mon. Feb 10 9:30-11:30 am	Rancho Bernardo & Scripps Ranch	The Gateway – TV Room 858-487-1197 12751 Gateway Park Rd., Poway 92064	Claire Weiner.....858-679-7350 Betsy Stevens.....858-451-5653
Mon, Feb 10 1:30-3:30 pm	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego 92122	Mariette Kobrak...858 450-1521 Catherine Stoll....858-755-4119
Tues, Feb 11 9:30-11:30 am	La Jolla	La Jolla Community Center 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla 92037	Joan Dahlin.....858-454-5019
Wed, Feb 12 1-3 pm	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive, San Diego 92124	Carole Porter.....858-279-5474
Wed, Feb 12 5:30-7:30 pm	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library, Meeting Room A Fenton Pkwy, near Ikea, San Diego 92108	Debra Blum.....619-225-0353
Thurs, Feb 13 10 am-noon	College Rolando	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road, San Diego 92115	Barbara Evje.....619-463-0673 Pearline Hayes....619 582-2296
Thurs, Feb 13 10 am-noon	Ocean Beach/ Point Loma	Point Loma Library 3701 Voltaire St, Point Loma (SD) 92107	Nancy Witt.....619-222-7230 Shirley Walkoe....619-223-6314
Fri, Feb 14 10 am-noon	East County	El Cajon Library, Conference Room 201 East Douglas Avenue, El Cajon 92020	Marietta Lassaline.619-448-6270


LWVSD Board/Committee Meetings ~ February

Mon	Feb 3	10 am	Membership Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Tues	Feb 4	4 pm	LWVSD Board, 3rd floor Conference Room, 7710 Balboa Avenue, SD 92111
Thurs	Feb 6	9:30 am	Unit Chairs Meeting, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Fri	Feb 7	10 am	LWVSDC ILO Board, Scripps Ranch Library, 10301 Scripps Lake Dr, SD 92131
Fri	Feb 14	9:30 am	Public Policy Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111
Wed	Feb 19	9:30 am	Education Committee, SD County Off. of Ed., 6401 Linda Vista Rd., SD 92111, 305
Fri	Feb 21	10 am	Program Committee, League Office, 7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 224A, SD 92111

Special Events ~ February-April

Sat, Feb 1	Program Planning for 2014-2015, 10 am-2 pm, see January Voter for details		
Tue, Feb 11	San Diego Mayoral Election		
Sat, Mar 15	Agriculture Study Consensus Meeting, University Library, Governor Dr, 10 am-2 pm.		
Sat, Mar 22	LWV North County's 3rd Annual Restoring Respect Conference, Mesa College, 8:30 am-2 pm,		
Sun, Apr 27	Earth Day, Balboa Park	http://www.earthdayweb.org/EarthFair.html	

Mark Your Calendars

May 17-18, 2014	LWVC State Council in San Jose	
Jun 6-10, 2014	LWVUS National Convention in Dallas	
May 15-17, 2015	LWVC Convention in San Diego!	

Changes in bold type. Also see <http://lwvsandiego.org/calendar.html>

Membership

Carol Landale (92130) is a new member who immediately volunteered to help with interviews of state legislators. Shelli Kurth (92107) rejoined last fall and is active on the Education Committee, but I forgot to list her in the Voter. Michele Hagan (92142) has moved back to San Diego and rejoined. Dr. Michael McQuary has also renewed his membership.



Believe it or not, we are beginning to plan for the Annual Meeting in May. One of our special events is honoring new 50-year members who no longer pay annual dues. If you think you have been a member of the LWV anywhere for 50 contiguous years, please contact Beryl.

~ Beryl Flom, Membership Chair, (858) 459-4406, edflom@sabcglobal.net

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO						
Profit and Loss July 2012- June 2013						
	<u>INCOME</u>		<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>		<u>% of Budget</u>
	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	
MEMBERSHIP¹	\$ 25,875	\$ 21,142	82%	\$ 18,176	\$ 18,357	101%
DEVELOPMENT	19,500	11,427	59%	850	2,295	270%
PROGRAM	3,500	7,118	203%	3,790	6,443	176%
VOTER SERVICE	750	733	98%	300	204	68%
NEWSLETTER	-	-		2,000	2,058	103%
ADMINISTRATION²	4,901	1,562	32%	29,410	17,008	58%
	<u>\$ 54,526</u>	<u>\$ 41,982</u>	77%	<u>\$ 54,526</u>	<u>\$ 46,365</u>	85%
	INCOME MINUS EXPENSES =			\$ -	\$ (4,383) ³	

¹ Includes dues of \$19,497 minus \$17,860 spent on Per Member Payments (PMP) = \$1,637 income divided by 339 members=\$4.83 net dues income

² No budgeted savings account withdrawal; \$2,625 used from back-up checking account

³ 85% of \$5,000 Ed Fund budget earned; \$2,965 not transferred to operating account.

~ Kathleen MacLeod, Treasurer

To our much-appreciated donors:

Some challenges occurred in preparing this section for the February *Voter*. We want to be sure each donor is recognized appropriately and expect to have accurate information for the March *Voter*. Thank you for understanding.

~ Dolores Hansen Nelson, *Voter* Editor

(continued from page 1)

Artificial Selection, often known as breeding, is the process where man selects traits he prefers in a species, mates specoes that have that trait in order to achieve a subspecies (or breed) that is useful to him. Examples are various dog breeds, some with long snouts and others with short. **The advantages aren't necessarily for the dog but for the owner.**

Genetic Modification occurs when scientists identify genes in one species that do not exist in another but they believe that trait will improve the species in some way, usually to become more profitable. In order to transfer that **trait to the new organism, they "cut out" the gene from the chromosome of one organism and "insert" it into the other.** How that is done is very complex and controversial. Knowing exactly where one gene ends and another begins is a very imprecise science. Cutting in a little too close or a little too far away can cause the gene to not perform exactly as hoped or it might carry other parts that might cause unexpected effects, such as allergic reactions.

In 1978 Insulin derived from recombinant DNA was first marketed. This brought down the price and increased the availability of insulin. Genetically engineered vaccines **came next and then the "Flavr Savr" tomato in 1992.** Since then most of the GM crops have been either insect-resistant (Bt) or herbicide-resistant (Ht) or a combination called **"stacked."** **As of 2013 stacked crops accounted for more than half of the US corn or cotton.**

The main arguments in favor are:

1. GM helps produce more and better food to reduce world hunger, malnutrition, environmental damage and improve human health.
2. Science-based testing and regulations assure food **safety and therefore should reduce the public's fears** about possible harmful effects from biotech foods. This limits unnecessary testing and reduces food-production costs so food is cheaper around the world.
3. After tests that followed highly publicized complaints against certain biotech products, there is still no sci-

entific evidence of harm to humans or the environment.

The main arguments in opposition are:

1. The benefits of GE foods are often oversold. More countries are banning GE foods and therefore there is a danger that farmers may not be able to sell their crops overseas. Others do not ban but require GMO labels.
2. The potential for the manufacturer of the seeds to sue a farmer for contamination when GE crops pollen drifts to a non-GE farm. (This problem has been partially resolved by Monsanto.)
3. Current controls over production processes, monitoring practices, and public disclosure may be inadequate for preventing or anticipating long-term negative impacts on human health, non-biotech producers, and the environment. Conflict of Interest studies **show that there is a "tendency to produce favorable outcomes to the associated commercial interests."** Testing is often conducted over 90 days. More long-term testing is recommended.
4. Control of the gene pool and food system is concentrated in a few multinational companies.
5. Product liability laws may be inadequate to prevent biotech contamination of non-biotech foods.
6. Allergy testing of these foods by the FDA has been requested by many scientists. So far, their requests have been ignored.

This is the tip of a big but important iceberg that we are studying. Please join us for the February Units and the March 15th General Meeting to learn more and help us come to consensus.

~ Jeanne Brown, Co-chair, Program Committee



For more information about the Agricultural Study see www.lwvsandiego.org, the ILO Voter insert (green), and <http://sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org>



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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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Individual Membership \$65 Additional Household Memberships \$35

I am unable to join at this time, but I am enclosing a tax-deductible* contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 Other _____ Please contact me with more information

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone(s) _____ E-Mail _____

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