



# San Diego Voter

Vol. 74 No. 2

October 2009

## Healthcare Reform - Can We Pass The Final Hurdle?

**The League is fortunate to have Dr. Gerald Kominski come from UCLA to speak at the October 20th Lunch with League (see flyer enclosed in this Voter).**

Public Health Professor Kominski is Director of the Health Economics and Evaluation Research Program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. His research focuses on evaluating the costs and cost-effectiveness of health care programs and technologies; improving access and health outcomes among ethnic and vulnerable populations; and evaluating the performance of public insurance programs.

Now that Leaguers who attended the September Unit meetings have a basic understanding of the options being discussed for healthcare policy and a general idea of how costs can be contained, Dr. Kominski's presentation on the likely outcome of all of the discussion in Congress and how much of a difference it will make in the quality and the economics of healthcare will be most enlightening. He will also share his thoughts on whether the plan outlined by President Obama really can be accomplished without deficit spending by the government. Come hear what Healthcare services would be like under this plan.

Jeffrey Gordon, M.D., a leader in the local chapter of the California Physicians Alliance, is actively promoting changes in the health insurance industry. He will briefly suggest ways that our members can be involved in influencing decisions being made in Congress and the political nuances of this very heated discussion.

### October Unit Meetings

The video "Sick Around the World," produced by "Frontline" a couple of years ago, will demonstrate the success of various Western countries in developing healthcare systems that appear to be superior to that in the United States. The second half of the Unit meetings will be devoted to discussing the project that each Unit might undertake (see the September Voter). That discussion will continue in November as well as a wrap-up on healthcare.

Meanwhile, we suggest that you figure out what your medical care is costing you --- your insurance premiums; co-pays; out-of-pocket expenses for prescription medicine, dental care, eyeglasses, hearing aids, chiropractor services, mental health care, acupuncture, preventive care, etc. --- you will be amazed!

---Beryl Flom, Program Chair

### Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare

League members are invited to work for passage of Single Payer Healthcare. Please contact Beryl Flom for meeting times and activities, 858-459-4406 or [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net)

### Save Your Auction Items

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



--- Catherine Stoll, 858-755-4119.  
[cstoll@san.rr.com](mailto:cstoll@san.rr.com)

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**Membership Committee  
Report**

The Membership Committee would like to thank the members who have paid their dues. We also want to welcome the new members who have joined. We value your support and contributions to our League.

---Peggy Finch & Peg Bates,  
Membership Co-Chairs

**Co-President's Message**

For all of us working to make life safer, healthier, and saner for future generations, it's hard to feel elated. The dearth of good news across the globe is enough to turn dogged optimists into discouraged pessimists. Violence, rapacious greed, societal selfishness, government corruption, inaction in the face of blatant inequities, environmental degradation...this is the short list. In our own backyards we're stuck in a stunted education system, foundering health care system, unresponsive government system...another short list.

While calamities and failures are not new phenomena, most of us grew up in a time that encouraged a certain type of complacency. It wasn't that we believed life was perfect or that we had no responsibility to take action – far from it. But we shared a belief that good intentions, rationality, and hard work would inevitably lead to a better life for all. In fact, we took this "truth" for granted.

Surprise! The human animal is not so easily roped in. Rationality turns out to be vastly overrated as the most effective approach to sharing information with fellow citizens. Good intentions are inextricably attached to difficult, unintended consequences. And hard work may be good for the soul but hardly guarantees progress.

So what does this mean for an organization like the League of Women Voters, which is made up of the most rational, hard-working, and best intentioned people you'll ever want to meet? It's an important question, because who wants to be overworked and irrelevant?

Maybe the most honest answer at this moment, when many of our organization's efforts toward government and social reform seem to be stymied, undercut, or thwarted is that our real power is our staying power. The League's high standards, educated positions, and grass-roots energy keep our voice reliable, strong, available, and valuable to countless people throughout our county and region. There is a better way to conduct the affairs of government and society. Our most enduring contribution will be to ensure that these ideas and ideals don't ever get silenced or erased.

---Norma Damashek, Co-President

We welcome all members' opinions --- e-mail the Voter Editor at [frose@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto: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.

## October Units: "Sick Around the World" & Project Planning

Saturday, Oct. 10 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, Oct. 12 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	Home of Bev Wilson 12262 Avenida Consentido San Diego, CA 92128	Bev Wilson, (858) 592-9664 Irene Dunny, (858) 613-0335
Monday, Oct. 12 5:30 - 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108	Debra Blum, (619) 225-0353
Tuesday, Oct. 13 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	Riford Center 6811 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA 92037	Joan Dahlin, (858) 454-5019 Sherry Bloom, 858-459-7598 619-200-0300 (cell)
Tuesday, Oct. 13 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, Oct. 14 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Home of Mary Anna Kornbrust 5241 Edgepark Way San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter, (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Oct. 15 9:30 - 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	Pacific Beach Library 4275 Cass Street San Diego, CA 92109	Shirley Walkoe, (619) 223-6314 Nancy Witt, (619) 222-7230
Thursday, Oct. 15 9:30 - 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje, (619) 462-4772
Monday, Oct. 19 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Coronado Unit	Winn Room, Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy, (619) 437-4597

## LWVSD Calendar — October

10/2	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/3	Sat.		LWVC Regional Workshops, Encinitas
10/6	Tues.	5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/8	Thur.	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
10/10-19			<b>Units: Healthcare Video and Project Planning</b>
10/12	Mon.		<i>Columbus Day</i>
10/19	Mon.	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/20	Tues.	11:30 a.m.	<b>Lunch w/ League, UCLA Prof. Gerald Kominski, "Healthcare Reform: Can We Pass the Final Hurdle?", Hilton Harbor Island</b>
10/21	Wed.	11:00 a.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
10/23	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
10/23	Fri.	12:00 (noon)	Program Committee, LWVSD Office



## 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](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net) if you could help with this mini project.

## Bulk Mail or E-Mail?

Did you know that you receive this bulletin only through the hard work of volunteers from our nine Units, under the direction of Jody Tadder? Bulk mailing has become a difficult, detail-oriented job, and we truly appreciate their cheerful help.



If you are willing to receive your Voter via email, it would save some trees (and our volunteers) and help us reduce costs. (Your address would never be shared.) If you wish to get your Voter the modern way (and print your own copy), please notify Jeanne Brown at the LWV office, at [lwvsd@san.rr.com](mailto:lwvsd@san.rr.com). Thank you very much for your generosity and public-spirited help.

---Jeanne Brown, VP/Administration

## Planning For April Unit Meetings

September's Unit meetings began two very different processes. One, the Units began the study of Healthcare Reform, a very timely meeting topic. And, secondly, the Units began to discuss how they want to spend their time in April.

Bev Wilson, Unit Co-Chair of Rancho Bernardo Unit, said, "The interest in Healthcare is so great right now that members didn't want to spend too much time on planning for April. However", she continued, "some members are talking about the California Constitution being considered for revision under a Convention sometime in the near future. Maybe we might like to investigate that." The Southeast Unit is interested in the uneven distribution of group homes and how they affect the neighborhood.

The Education Committee is recommending that Unit members volunteer in preschools and will provide information on them for consideration at the Unit Meetings. By assisting teachers and working with children from needy backgrounds, Leaguers can make a difference for the rest of the lives of these youngsters. At the same time, Leaguers will become aware of what does and doesn't happen in preschools, so they will be more informed by the April luncheon.

Time is being set aside in the October Unit Meetings for you to discuss a number of issues. Come to the October meeting and present your issue of interest and plan the activity for April. The September Voter had other suggestions for projects that Units could do. You can always view it online at [www.lwvsandiego.org](http://www.lwvsandiego.org)



---Jody Tadder, Unit Coordinator,  
858-277-4579, [jotall3@yahoo.com](mailto:jotall3@yahoo.com)

---Beryl Flom, VP/Program Chair  
858-459-4406, [edflom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edflom@sbcglobal.net)

## Outstanding Speakers On Preschools At Education Committee

The LWVSD's Education Committee is concentrating on preschool education this year in preparation for the April Luncheon program. They have been interviewing various experts in the field. **League members are welcome to their meetings.** On Wednesday, October 21st at 11:00 a.m. in the League office, the following people will be planning the April presentation with the committee:

- ◀ Sylvia Gonzalez, Director of Child Development Programs, San Diego Unified School District
- ◀ Jennifer Henry, Chair of the Preschool Task Force, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.
- ◀ Catherine McDonald, Early Education Consultant

Julie Meier-Wright, President and CEO of the Economic Development Corp., may also attend. For further information, please contact me.

---Ruberta Castro, Education Committee Chair  
858-273-4794 or rubertal@sbcglobal.net

## Joyce Tavrow is Leaving Us!

The Rancho Bernardo Unit and the rest of us will miss Joyce, who is moving to Palo Alto to be near her daughter. This letter recognizes the great work she did on the Speakers Bureau.

Dear Joyce:

Thank you for your presentation to Temple Emanu-El on this year's ballot propositions. You did a great job, especially considering the compressed time frame you were working in. I don't know how you did it, but you managed to squeeze it all in, and in a way that people understood. I have heard nothing but compliments for your presentation. I consider myself to be a pretty educated person when it comes to these matters, but I learned a lot from you. You're truly a credit to The League of Women Voters!

On behalf of a grateful congregation and community, I thank you.

Aaron Borovoy  
President, Temple Emanu-El

## Obituary: Muriel Goldhammer

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Muriel Goldhammer in Israel. She was a long-time member and served as president of the San Diego League. She was very active in political and civic issues in San Diego. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

From a lengthy obituary in the San Diego Union-Tribune:

*"Whether issues pertained to housing, education, health care or Israel, Muriel Goldhammer believed it was her civic duty to volunteer and also get others involved in improving their community.*

*As president of the League of Women Voters in the 1960s, Mrs. Goldhammer played a role in conducting an independent study of San Diego's city government when charter revisions were being considered.*

*Rep. Susan Davis said Mrs. Goldhammer was a mentor and role model to many. 'She felt so strongly about the political process and civic involvement. There was something special about her,' Davis said. 'She had a way of helping people really engage in issues and discussions.'*

*In addition to local leadership roles in the League of Women Voters, the San Diego Urban League, the San Diego Mental Health Association and various city committees, Mrs. Goldhammer was also on the board of directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and on the Civil Rights Committee of the National League of Women Voters. Her involvement in health issues included serving as president of the Comprehensive Health Planning Association for San Diego, Imperial and Riverside counties."*

*Mrs. Goldhammer died on Aug. 29 in Kfar Saba, Israel, where she had moved in the late 1990s to be near her daughter. She was 86.*



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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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