



San Diego Voter

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January 2010

January Units - "How Does County Government Affect Your Life?"

An overview of County government is timely in preparation for the June Primary election where we will be electing Supervisors for Districts 4 and 5, the County Sheriff, and the County Treasurer/Tax Collector. We will review many of the services handled by the county, the county's relationship with the state and cities within the region, the responsibilities of the supervisors, finances, and elections including term limits and redistricting. In the process of gathering all this information, the committee has uncovered some issues which we will also discuss. We will welcome experiences our members have had when dealing with San Diego County. Handouts will be available at the Unit meetings.

The County of San Diego is about the size of the state of Connecticut and has about 3 million people. There are 18 incorporated cities within the County (Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, and Vista). The County provides services county-wide and also serves as the municipal government for many of the unincorporated areas. Some of the incorporated cities also contract with the County for specific services such as sheriff protection and library.

In addition to municipal and county government, there are some county-wide agencies which also play important roles. These include:

- * San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) is authorized and funded by the state but governed by a locally-elected board. It oversees the 42 school districts in the county and is an intermediary between them and the state. It educates unique groups of children such as migrant workers, children in juvenile detention, and foster children. It also provides county-wide services such as outdoor programs and special education.
- * San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA) is authorized by state law and has an appointed board. It operates Lindbergh Field and does airport planning throughout the county. Its funding comes from airport revenue.
- * San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) is also a state agency with a board made up of one elected representative from each city and several other county agencies. Its work is funded by state and federal grants and Trans-Net taxes. It provides public planning; transportation; and research on the region regarding growth, open space, housing, environmental management, transportation planning, public safety, highways, and bi-national issues.
- * North County Transit District (NCTD) and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) provide public transit for north county and the southwest quadrant of the county respectively. Both are state agencies with appointed boards. Most of their funding is from federal and state grants, fares, and advertising. They own and operate the equipment, plan the routes and schedules, and set the fares. NCTD owns the train tracks for the Coaster and Sprinter systems. MTS owns and operates the trolleys.
- * San Diego Unified Port District (SDUPD) is a state agency with an appointed board of commissioners. The state owns the land around the port and it is leased to whomever occupies it. Lease revenue and income from maritime operations fund the SDUPD. This agency develops, leases, and maintains the real estate; operates the cargo vessels and cruise ships, and oversees environmental projects around the port.
- * San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) is authorized by the state and is governed by an appointed board made up of the 24 water agencies in the western half of the county. It wholesales water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California to the 24 water districts and agencies in the region and operates a series of aqueducts, storage, hydroplants, pump stations, and related infrastructure. Revenue from the sale of water funds its activities.

LWVSD Committee on County Government:
---Debra Blum, Beryl Flom, Kathy Hughart,
Shirley Larson, Cathy O'Leary, and Nan Valerio

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July 2009 - June 2010
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LWVSD Mission Statement

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

Special thanks to Beryl and Ed Flom for their generous gift to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.

Co-President's Message

The past year has been a rough one for many people in San Diego and throughout the entire nation who suddenly find themselves out of work and struggling to keep up with the demands of everyday life. The year 2010 is newly upon us, and while the start of a new year traditionally spawns hopes of happy days to come, in fact it may be quite a while before we can collectively breathe easier.

What does this grim story mean for us at the San Diego LWV? As an organization, we too are struggling to make sure our office bills get paid and our activities continue to be available to the public. And since our strength and usefulness depend on all of you sticking with us through thick and thin, we're trying to figure out how to make sure that members having trouble with membership dues can remain members. So be sure to call us at the office if you find yourself hesitating over writing a check for your membership renewal.

Despite the gloomy message I remain an optimist. Let me remind you of this: Adversity can have a flip side. (William Shakespeare said it already: *Sweet are the uses of adversity*). We have the potential to make this a unique year despite our faltering budget by focusing our energy on special projects within our own communities. We can roll up our sleeves and engage in meaningful projects in local schools, neighborhood groups, census activities, polling places, you name it. The fact is, direct action by a couple of energetic units can make a huge difference. Well-defined projects initiated by League committees and the Board of Directors can bring our name and energy to people throughout our city who don't yet know us.

What better way is there to celebrate the upcoming 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters than to give the public living proof that we are not quaint relics of a time gone by but that we are an active, assertive, and stubborn force for positive change and reform in the 21st century?

--- Norma Damashek, Co-President

Holiday Party Was Great!

Many people made the annual LWV Holiday party on December 2nd a great success. Board members provided turkeys and hams, and everyone brought potluck dishes. Jody Tadder and Beryl Flom managed the well-equipped kitchen, and Ed Flom, Neil Larson, Bruce Thornburg, and John Carey handled the wine, carving, registration, check-out, and parking. Decorations were provided by Beryl Flom and committee members. Thanks to Ethel Palmer for securing small poinsettias for table centerpieces. Catherine Stoll was our auctioneer for unsold silent auction items, and Suzy Morgan read Tarot Cards, donating the proceeds. Co-Presidents Anne Hoiberg and Norma Damashek spoke to the group about our League's goals and accomplishments and plans for 2010. Thanks to the committee members -Judy Seery, Shirley Larson, June Reardon, Betty Weinberger, Margaret Stevenson, Susan Baer, Ethel Palmer, Jody Tadder, and Chair Catherine Stoll who worked for months. The silent auction was a big success due to so many donations from many organizations and individuals. **Besides being great fun, the party earned nearly \$4000 for the League!**

---Jody Tadder, Development Chair

Program Planning for 2010-11 Starts on January 30th

LWVSD is changing the way we do Program Planning this year in response to members' comments.

**A general meeting will be held
Saturday, January 30th at 9:30 a.m.
at the Linda Vista Public Library
2160 Ulric St., 92111***

National Program Planning

We will review the LWVUS positions and discuss any recommended updates or new studies. So far, only one proposal has come to our attention: A study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. The purpose is to establish positions that would enable LWVUS to

- review, consider, evaluate and advocate for or against federal education legislation
- advocate on issues related to what the federal role in public education should be
- join in coalition with other national organizations that speak out on issues of public education

You may have heard that the federal government is funding school districts more if they agree to certain criteria - the most controversial is evaluating teachers based on student test scores. This increased Federal involvement in local education has some Leaguers concerned. This proposed study comes from the Leagues in Palo Alto, Los Altos/Mountain View, Berkeley/Albany, and Santa Monica.

County and City Program Planning

At the local level we will do the same thing - review existing positions and discuss updates or new studies. Members may also want to suggest topics for advocacy, education, or further research (without taking consensus and forming a new position). You may have developed an idea from the project your Unit is doing and want to urge the League to study it and take a position on it or explore it more through further research and education of all of our members. Please think ahead about what study and action the League should take.

Existing Positions are printed in booklets at the League office but are also on line at www.lwvsandiego.org.

Terminology - See next page for list of Helpful Definitions.

Importance of this Meeting

Once the recommendations from this meeting come to the Board, they will select some items for a vote at the Annual Meeting. If a topic has not been suggested at this Program Planning meeting, it cannot be brought up at the Annual Meeting, so it is every member's responsibility to partake in Program Planning and to at least mention topics that will become of interest and importance in the next League year. Note that Program Planning for the County and National Leagues is done biannually.

Directions

From Hwy. 5 coming south - Exit at Sea World Dr. and turn left. At the light, turn right onto Morena Blvd. Turn left onto Napa St. and left on Linda Vista Rd.; drive past University of San Diego and into Linda Vista. After 1.9 mi., turn right onto Comstock and go one block; the library is on the left.

From Hwy. 8 going west and Hwy. 5 going north - Exit at Morena Blvd. and go north to Napa St. and take a right. Turn left on Linda Vista Rd. Follow directions above.

From the east side of Linda Vista - Linda Vista Road intersects with Genesee, Mesa College Dr., Aero Dr., and Convoy. You can access these roads from Hwy 15 or Hwy 163. Go west on Linda Vista Rd. through Linda Vista for .06 mi. Turn left onto Comstock for one block; the library is on the left.

*If library hours are changed, the meeting will be held at Beryl Flom's home, 1577 Vista Claridad, La Jolla 92037. Call 858-459-4406 if you are unclear about where to meet or how to get to Beryl's.

--- Beryl Flom, VP/Program
858-459-4406

See Terminology on page 4

90th Anniversary Celebration of the LWV



The late Honorable Lionel Van Deerlin once commented that League women were "women in low heels with high ideals," exemplifying how the dedication of League members promotes good governance in our communities and nation. This February the LWV celebrates 90 years of active public participation in government policy and decision making, as well as the beginning of the 75th year of LWV serving San Diegans. We invite League members and friends to wrap themselves in those high ideals by participating in this momentous event.

- * Mark February 12 on your calendar for a gala luncheon at the Prado Restaurant in Balboa Park!
- * Sign up to be a sponsor of the luncheon at a generous level.
- * Honor a League member, family member, or special friend by adding his or her name to our Honor Roll.
- * Consider adding your story about becoming involved with League or a wonderful League accomplishment in which you participated.

The luncheon will showcase the accomplishments of San Diego Leagues dating back to 1936, while highlighting a number of our national achievements. We will share inspiring stories and rousing songs.

The following is an example of an inspiring story from La Quita Robbins, Southeast Unit: "Back during the late 1960s or early 1970s, I became involved in a League project called 'People's Power Project.' They recruited citizens into this project to show that people have the power but just don't know they have it. That got me to thinking about how we can change things. "Soon after that, I was talking with a local judge about the fact that black people weren't being called for jury duty here. The reason given was that most black people couldn't get time off work due to the types of jobs they had. So we decided we would bring a few retired black people down to the courthouse who agreed to sit there for the day to show they were available. We didn't have a demonstration or cause a fuss. Soon after that, blacks started being called for jury duty. It was that League project that helped me see that we can all change things."

Isn't that inspiring? How have you decided to participate in this 90th Anniversary Celebration? Will you share a story, attend the luncheon, honor someone for the Honor Roll, become a sponsor? Save the date, share your story, and join the fun on February 12. For more information, contact

--- Susan Baer, 858-569-5183, sbaer@san.rr.com
90th Anniversary Committee Chair

Continued from page 3 **Terminology**

Bring this list for Helpful Definitions to the Program Planning meeting on January 30

Definitions from page 3

Retain – Members decide to keep a position because it is still relevant.

Drop – The position is no longer useful in its present form or is not supported by most members. Action on this position will end. Any further action will require a new study.

Study – Usually a two-year process where a committee gathers data, does interviews, and gathers information with the aim of member discussion, consensus, and establishing a position.

Update – A study of limited scope to reevaluate an existing position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another League position. During an Update, action on the existing position continues. Ultimately, the position may be changed.

Fact Finding – Gathering of information on a specific topic for which there is a general position but where more details are needed in order to act.

Legislative Priority – Issues selected each year by the State League Board for concerted action in the legislature. LWVSD does not do this. (Don't confuse with Issue for Education and Advocacy)

Issue for Education and Advocacy – An issue geared to action using existing positions and/or to educate the community with specific information. Adopted by the State Convention (for LWVC) or Annual Meeting (for LWVSD) by a vote of the delegates.

Adopt by Concurrence – A position held in another League which you recommend be adopted verbatim by a vote of the delegates at the LWVC Convention or LWVSD Annual Meeting. Background material would be sent in advance of the meeting through consensus.

Citizens Redistricting Commission

On December 15, I attended a forum in Burbank to help prepare citizens who are interested in being a part of this new commission, created by the passage of Proposition 11 in November 2009. Janis Hirohama, Chris Carson, Trudy Shafer, and Xandra Kayden were all representatives from the LWVC. I asked them, "What is it that each local League should be doing to help make this process successful?"

They told me that each League should be finding people whom they think would make good commissioners. What they are looking for in a commissioner: People with open minds, who can put aside their personal interests and loyalties; people who embrace California's diversity; someone who can communicate with other commissioners and make sound decisions that comply with regulations.

Do you know someone who fits that description?

Two workshops and two webinars will be held in January to help those who want to apply:

San Diego - CAPAFR Commission Application Workshop

When: Thursday, January 7, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Kalusugan Community Services, 1419 East 8th Street, National City, CA 91950

Description:

Hosted by Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL). Target audience is Asian American and Pacific Islander, but workshop is open to public. ** RSVP required to attend ** To RSVP, contact Palma Hooper at phooper@qhlawyers.com. Please arrive early for registration. CAPAFR stands for Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/capaf2011.

San Diego Greenlining Workshop

When: Tuesday, January 12, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: 9580 Black Mountain Rd San Diego, CA 92126

Description

The Greenlining Institute is hosting a workshop for you to learn about redistricting, the new citizens commission, and how to get involved. Co-hosted by with the Mabuhay Alliance. Public is welcome. More info / RSVP: Adam Briones: - adamb@greenlining.org.

League of Women Voters Webinar

Learn how to educate your community about the new citizens redistricting commission and how to apply to be a commissioner. Sign up at www.lwvc.org for this webinar, presented by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. You'll become familiar with the outreach and educational materials developed by the Redistricting California Alliance, or Redistricting CA. Join us to hone your skills to do the most effective recruiting job possible!

Statewide training webinar (League of Women Voters)

Friday, January 8, noon -1:00 p.m. or Saturday, January 9, 11:00 a.m.

You can apply at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

---Jeanne Brown, V/P Administration

For more information, call me at 619-224-1807

Health Care: A California Solution for a National Crisis



In conjunction with Martin Luther King Day, a panel presentation on Single Payer Health Care will be held at the Chula Vista Public Library Auditorium, 365 F St., Chula Vista 91910 on Thursday, January 14 at 6 pm. The LWVSD is a coalition member of the Single Payer Action Committee making the presentation.

January Units: "How Does County Government Affect Your Life?"

Saturday, Jan. 9 10:00 a.m. - noon.	Southeast Unit	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Frances Bumpus, (619) 263-7335 La Quita Robbins, (619) 470-9095
Monday, Jan. 11 9:30—11:30 a.m.	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room 2nd Floor 15789 Bernardo Center Drive San Diego, CA 92128	Irene Dunny, (858) 613-0335 Bev Wilson, (858) 592-9664
Monday, Jan. 11 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Coronado Unit	Winn Room, Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy, (619) 437-4597
Monday, Jan. 11 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (Near IKEA and Costco)	Debra Blum, (619) 225-0353
Tuesday, Jan. 12 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	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, Jan. 12 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Catherine Stoll, (858) 755-4119
Wednesday, Jan. 13 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Tierrasanta	Monterey Villa Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark Dr. /Apple Tree Lane San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter, (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Jan. 14 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje, (619) 462-4772
Thursday, Jan. 14 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	North Shores/ Point Loma	Pacific Beach Library 4275 Cass Street San Diego, CA 92109	Shirley Walkoe, (619) 223-6314 Nancy Witt, (619) 222-7230

LWVSD Calendar — January

1/5	Tues.	5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/7	Thur.	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
1/8	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/9	Sat.	11:30 a.m.	CA Clean Elections Volunteer Orientation, Mission Valley Library (Comm. Room)
1/15	Fri.	11:30 a.m.	LEED Building Tour (see flyer insert in Voter)
1/9-14			Units: "How Does County Government Affect Your Life?"
1/20	Wed.	11:00 a.m.	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
1/21	Thur.	6:00 p.m.	Co-Sponsoring Roe v Wade Dinner , Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Ave. 92114
1/22	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
1/22	Fri.	12:00 (noon)	Program Committee, LWVSD Office
1/25	Mon.	10:00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
1/30	Sat.	9:30 a.m.	Program Planning Meeting , Linda Vista Public Library, 2160 Ulric St., 92111

In Memory of Janet Gilkeson

Janet joined the LWV in New Orleans in the early 1950's and became very active after her move in 1961 to Claremont CA. She served as Finance and Membership Chairs before becoming President of the Claremont League. For several years she was active in both the Claremont and SD Leagues, for the family shared two residences from '86 till '91. She was active and served in various leadership roles in the Rancho Bernardo Unit and as a key committee member of the League's school-based clinic study in 1989.

As Program Vice President for the San Diego League in 1995/96, Janet took on the League's national project "Making Democracy Work" for the local and County Leagues. They sponsored an excellent televised forum on campaign finance at the County Office of Education as part of the League's Initiative to Renew Democracy.

Over the last decade, Janet worked with the City and County Leagues to schedule numerous Pro/Con Election Forums at the Casa de las Campanas retirement facility in Rancho Bernardo, where they had moved. Mack is a Professor of Engineering Emeritus of Harvey Mudd College. Aside from raising four children (Sue, Murray, Jo Anne, and Todd), travel, tennis, duplicate bridge, and the League, politics and her four granddaughters were her main interests.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 2 at Casa de las Campanas in Rancho Bernardo. Janet can be memorialized with a gift to San Diego League of Women Voters Education Fund, LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd. Bldg. 100, Suite 104, San Diego, CA 92117.

What is a LEED Building? Join our Tour and Find Out

On Friday, January 15, we are meeting for lunch at 11:30 a.m. to learn about LEED buildings and then tour The Ranch House in Del Sur. Please see the flyer in this Voter for the details and logistics. Reservations for lunch must be received no later than January 11— please indicate which sandwich you want.

LEED, a classification of green buildings, stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Buildings use recycled materials as water and energy saving measures. Details such as site planning and landscaping, indoor environmental quality, and transportation of materials to the building site are environmentally neutral. "The LEED program is the most comprehensive system for efficiency for the built environment....There is no downside to sustainability. It makes good business sense, resource sense and economic sense."

Come learn more about this new concept and see for yourself how green a building can be. You'll be surprised how many everyday objects are recycled into The Ranch House.

---Beryl Flom, VP/Program
858-459-4406

California Fair Elections Act

Are you outraged by the amount of money in politics?

So are the LWV and Common Cause. They are working with California for Fair Elections to support the California Fair Elections Act that will be on the June ballot statewide.

This act creates a voluntary system for candidates for Secretary of State to qualify for a public campaign grant if they agree to strict spending limits and no private contributions.

Join us for a Speakers' Training and Orientation for this important legislation.

**Saturday, January 9
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mission Valley Library
Community Room
2323 Fenton Parkway
San Diego, CA 92108**

We need you to help us pass this in June. Contact for more information

---Jeanne Brown (619)857-1807
jbrown@commoncause.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



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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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