



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Greetings, Fellow Leaguers,

A new year is beginning for League with new co-presidents. You might like to know that Jeanne is very computer savvy. I am moderately savvy.

The Internet and websites are old news to some of us, no news to some of us, and 'don't bother me about it' to some of us.

Many people use the Internet only when they must or when they want to find out something quickly. As a long-time professional librarian, I tend to keep a foot in both camps, printed material and the Internet.

But like it or not, more and more our national League and our state League are keeping us informed primarily through their websites. If we don't seek information at these, we are going to be left behind in what is happening League-wise. Our local League is moving in the same direction.

It may be difficult for some of us who have been around a while to get used to the idea of a self-service system of acquiring information rather than having it served to us personally via U.S. Mail. No matter the economics of it, financial or ecological, we still like our information to come to us on a piece of paper.

But Jeanne reminds me that this is the 21st century and I need to "get with it," so we must all try to keep up. Bookmark (isn't that an ironic term for computer use?) these websites on your computer and keep in the know of what is going on in the world of League — local, state, national. Sorry, I've been reminded that it is "bookmark" on the Macs, but on PCs you mark "favorites."

- Our local League <http://lwvsd.org>
- Our state League <http://ca.lwv.org>
- Our national League <http://lwv.org>



— Mary Jean Word, Co-President, LWVSD
mjmwocb2@sbcglobal.net

My first message as co-president is somewhat daunting but at the same time a convenient way for me to share a little information about my introduction to the League. It is also a perfect time for me to share how thrilled I am to experience being partnered with Mary Jean Word.

Mary Jean and I used to work together at Morse High School 30 years ago on staff development projects. She was the school's librarian and I was the math department chair. Later I had maternity leave and she left to work at Patrick Henry High, but we still kept in touch and met regularly for lunch and to talk. She was always so interesting to talk to, and I finally realized that it was because she was a League member.

It took me a while but I finally did something with that information and signed up as a member. A few years later, Mary Jean took me to a unit meeting and I was hooked. That was in 2005, and I only wish that it had been 25 years earlier. If we want our League to be vibrant and strong, we all need to bring in those friends who we know would love it. Think of it as a gift that you are sharing with them. I am so thankful that Mary Jean shared the League with me and I feel so privileged to be sharing this presidency with her.

I am writing this from South Dakota, having just visited Mount Rushmore. This monument in granite represents our nation's eternal principles. The design changed many times during its creation just as our nation's course has changed. Yet it represents the promise that these great leaders have envisioned for our democracy. I believe that the League is here to help fulfill that promise. I want to keep the inspiration I feel from this outstanding creation long after returning to San Diego.

Let's all work together to inspire our community as we strengthen our democracy.

— Jeanne Brown, Co-President, LWVSD
jhisten.brown@cox.net

LWVSD CALENDAR — AUGUST 2011

2	T	LWVSD Board, LWVSD Office, 4 p.m. Please note time change
5	F	County League Board (ILO), LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.
12	F	Public Policy Committee, Balboa Park, LWVSD Office, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
15	M	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.
17	W	Education Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.
25	Th	Women’s Suffrage Celebration, Balboa Park — see page 3 for details.
26	F	Program Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.



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Bylaw Amendment

Announcement to the Membership

In accordance with the amendment to strike out the word HONORARY before the words ‘life members’ in Article III, Sec. 2A (3) Membership, adopted by delegates at the LWVUS Convention in 2010, Article III, Sec. 2A (3) of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters – San Diego, will be amended to read, “Life members are League members who have been members of the League for 50 years and are exempt from paying dues.”



Since the first three articles of the bylaws of all levels of League must conform with those of the LWVUS, it is not required that we bring this change in our bylaws before the membership at the annual meeting of our League. The change needs only be announced to the membership.

— Mary Jean Word, Co-President, LWVSD

Inside Your August Voter

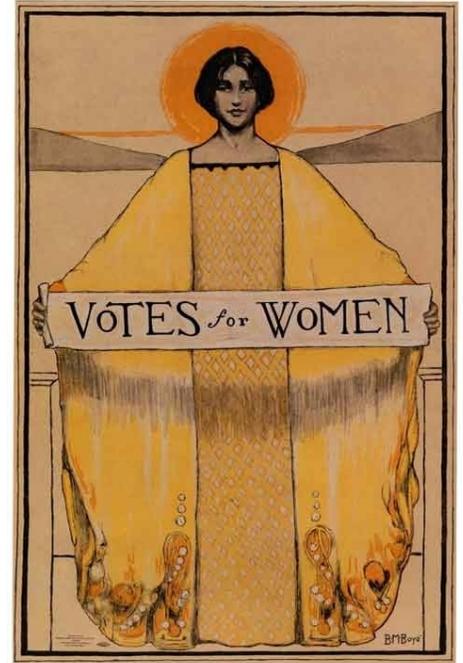
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SO, YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY! REALLY?

Throughout this year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in California, a narrowly-won victory resulting from the outcome of the October 10, 1911, election--the second attempt to win women's right to vote in our state. Upcoming events center on women's suffrage as well as an educational program on women's issues to examine past, present, and future legislation of importance to women.

In commemorating the past, League is cosponsoring the annual Suffrage Rally and Parade on August 25 in Balboa Park. Representatives from ten groups (either Jeanne or Mary Jean from League) will gather at Kate Sessions statue near the corner of 6th and Laurel. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., each speaker will have two to three minutes to give a brief history and the mission statement of her organization. At 5:30 we'll march across the Laurel Street Bridge to the organ pavilion while being led in chants. The San Diego Women's Drum Society will welcome us with a rousing drum roll as we march into the organ pavilion. The conductor of the Marine Band performing for the final Twilight in the Park Concert will acknowledge our 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.



Light refreshments will be provided in the grassy area across from the organ pavilion. Those who prefer not to march can park near the organ pavilion and attend the concert and/or the picnic. The concert begins promptly at 6:15 and ends at 7:15. We'll need banner, flag, and sign carriers for the march.

The theme for the September Unit meetings highlights this history, especially San Diego Suffragists, along with an examination of pieces of women's legislation dating from the beginning of the Suffrage Movement to the 8th California Constitutional Amendment, to the current War on Women's right to choose, and to future legislative endeavors. During the Unit discussions, we will honor several suffragists (e.g., Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Charlotte Baker) as well as examine such laws as the 19th Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment, Roe v. Wade, CEDAW, Violence against Women Act, Protection of Victims of Trafficking Act, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, etc.

Mark your calendars for the following events:

Suffrage Rally and March: August 25

Women's Equality Day: August 26

Unit Meetings on Suffrage and Women's Progress: second week in September

LWVSD Votes for Women and Women's Advancement Luncheon: October 19 (?)

Suffrage Ball: October 15 (?)

Suffrage Exhibit at San Diego City Hall: October 24 - November 4

Suffrage Exhibit Reception: October 24

So, dust off your suffrage costume and join the fun!

— Anne Hoiberg, Chair, Women's Issues Ad Hoc Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Membership In League



Exercises Your Brain

This is the time of year when all Leaguers think about their membership as we go through the renewal process. The co-presidents have requested that the membership roster be printed a month sooner than in the recent past, so, in order to get your name listed, we need to have your check or Paypal payment by the middle of August please.. Dues remain at \$65 for a single person and \$100 for two people living at the same address. We welcome three new members this month:

Suzanne Ditmars	92111
Robin Loving	92105
Stewart Witt (married to Nancy)	92107

By the way, one year LWVSD walked off with the largest gain in membership in the state because we got our spouses to join - it's an easy and inexpensive way to increase our numbers which in turn increases our clout. When we can say we are speaking for hundreds of members, it is impressive.

Another way to attract members is through our studies. Right now, LWVSD is conducting a study: "The Role of the Federal Government in Education." A national task force has written five background papers with lots of references, so our new committee will be learning about the issues raised in these papers and preparing to present them to the membership for consensus this fall. A non-Leaguer can join this effort. (p.s. - We usually win them over to membership in the League.) This is a short-term project and will end by mid November. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Jeanne Brown, 619-857-1807 or jhis-ten.brown@cox.net

— Beryl Flom, Vice President/Membership, 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net

Clare Crane died in La Jolla in June 2011. She joined our local League via membership at the national level. Dr. Crane was a professor of history at San Diego State University and very active in Citizen's Coordinate for Century 3. Just before she passed away, she completed Citizens Coordinate and the Battle for City Planning in San Diego which deal with the early years of this organization. Her friends said that she was an outspoken opponent of projects that might nibble away at portions of Balboa Park and that she was adept at rallying opinion and presenting planning ideas to the San Diego City Council and other groups.

She and her husband were avid sailors and supported Challenged America, a nonprofit sailing program for people with physical and psychological disabilities.

Eleanor Forester, an accomplished and successful interior designer, died June 2, 2011, in La Jolla. She owned Eleanor Forester Interiors, whose projects included commercial as well as residential jobs, from dorm rooms for UCSD to banks and private homes. Eleanor wrote a monthly column for San Diego Magazine, "La Jollans Are Talking About," in the early 1960s.

Eleanor's travels took her to the Greek Isles plus numerous trips to Europe and the Far East. When she was 75 years old, she went on an excursion to Antarctica and the Falkland Islands with her daughter, Lynn, during which she participated in all the Zodiac raft landings. One of Eleanor's greatest pleasures was going to the Ranch in Colorado with her League friend Danah Fayman

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

This year the League will be looking for consensus on the role of the federal government in public education. This is a national issue, so the League will be asking the same questions of local Leagues to eventually create a position on this important topic. If you want to be part of this important study, you will want to read the articles that will be in the August, September, October, and November *Voters* and to attend Unit meetings in October and November.



Federal funding currently averages about ten percent of local school budgets. Is this a new situation? We need some historical perspective. This study will be asking us what the purpose and role of the federal government in education, funding, and the extent to which the federal government should play in education. Following are some important dates in our country's history that have affected the federal government's influence on public education:

1787. Northwest Ordinance supported education.

1867. Federal Office of Education created.

1890. Federal government funded vocational education.

1954. *Brown vs Board of Education*.

1965. Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Since then, federal funds have supported programs for disadvantaged students along with forbidding the creation of a national curriculum. This act will be reauthorized, increased, and remade into many forms over the years, including *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* and *The Race To the Top*.

1980. Department of Education created

1983. *A Nation at Risk* published.

Where do we want to go with our nation's education? Should we have a national curriculum? Should we have national testing? What are the goals and effects of these? This will be a fascinating study, and I hope we have a large input from our members. We need you.

If you want to help educate our members to prepare for this study, please contact

— Jeanne Brown, Co-President, jhisten.brown@cox.net

BALBOA PARK PLAZA DE PANAMA

Statement to the San Diego City Council by LWVSD Public Policy Chair Joan Dahlin
Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Council President Tony Young and Members of the San Diego City Council:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego is opposed to the action before you to adopt Resolution 2012-24 authorizing the mayor to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Plaza de Panama Committee. This MOU sanctions only the proposed Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Circulation and Parking Structure Project as proposed by the Plaza de Panama Committee.



The committee's proposed project entails significant and controversial alterations to a major, iconic, public park. If the goal truly is to remove cars from Plaza de Panama, there are far better, less expensive, and less invasive ways to do it.

The project's environmental review is still in process. Its completion is weeks, or even months, away. It is premature to endorse this project when the final project selection and design are unknown at this time.

This MOU focuses only on the by-pass bridge and the underground parking garage in the very center of the park. There is no provision for considering the many other traffic and parking options. The decision to charge parking fees at the proposed garage is also predetermined by this MOU.

We, the citizen owners of the park, are not comforted by the MOU's wording that says that the MOU is not an approval of the proposed project and that the city has the right to impose "feasible mitigation measures and alternatives." But what are these measures and what are the alternatives? We will not know until we have an environmental impact report, long after the MOU is approved.

This manipulation of the public process only erodes an already fragile trust in local government and the democratic process.

In addition, the League is concerned about the lack of transparency of the Plaza de Panama Committee regarding its actions and decision-making. The committee is not required to make its decisions in open public meetings, to have an open and competitive bidding process for any part of the project, and its financial records for the project are not open to the public.

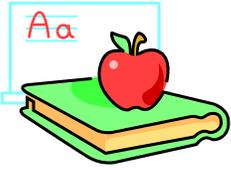
The city's role in this process includes a donation of resources, staff, and tax-exempt bonds to fund the project. The city is also responsible for the Organ Pavilion garage construction for which it will issue tax-exempt bonds. If parking fees do not cover repayment, then the balance will come from the general fund. The \$5 parking fee that is often mentioned is not likely to cover the cost even in today's economic market.

Previously, in a 2004 study, the consultant for this project stated, "Garages should be located with two goals in mind: reduction of pedestrian conflict and reclamation of parkland. The simplest way to reduce pedestrian conflict is to capture cars at or near park entries, thereby reducing vehicular traffic in pedestrian areas. While everyone would like to park by the front door of his or her destination, this convenience is simply not possible and falsely assigns priority to vehicles instead of to park integrity."

Continued on page 7

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NO SUMMER VACATION FOR LWVSD EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Schools may have been closed this summer, but the LWVSD Education Committee continued working right ahead advocating for early childhood education. After visiting a transitional kindergarten classroom in June, League members and their early childhood education coalition partners visited two legislators in one week in July -- Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher and State Senator Christine Kehoe. Members of the committee also attended the Listening Tours on Education sponsored by Assemblyman Fletcher and City Councilwoman Tony Young.

State Assemblyman Fletcher (R) (who recently announced that he will be running for mayor of San Diego) has a three year old son attending preschool and a young infant. He has two principles which guide him on decisions about educational bills. 1) Education is an essential aspect for achieving the "American Dream." 2) Education is an economic issue that also affects national security. He believes that the mid-term evaluation of the state budget will not result in further cuts to education. He has visited a preschool and expressed an interest in visiting the transitional kindergarten class that will open at one of the elementary schools in his district in September. He urged the League members and their partners to talk with other legislators and had his staff assist LWVSD Chairwoman Penny Adler in scheduling appointments with other state legislators as well as with San Diego City Council members.

State Senator Christine Kehoe (D) wanted to be informed of the gaps in early childhood education opportunities that exist in her district. She asked the representative for Preschool California about pending legislative bills that can improve preschool education. She pointed out that the state budget for 2012 has "triggers" that will respond to changes in the California economy. If the economy improves, more funds could be allotted to education, particularly to higher education, which received severe revenue cuts in the 2012 budget. On the other hand, if state revenues fall, the state will be unable to fund K-12 education at the level currently prescribed in the budget. She reminded the attendees that one third of the members of the Senate can block actions desired by two-thirds of its members because any revenue-enhancing bill requires a two-thirds vote before it can be placed on the ballot.

The LWVSD Education Committee has a full schedule of activities planned for the fall and invites LWVSD members to join the Education Committee.

— Contact Chairwoman Penny Adler at dadler@ucsd.edu or 858/272-3509 for further information.



BALBOA PARK *(continued from page 6)*

This same study states, "Because of the practical constraints of public space built atop structure, the team feels it is highly preferable that these reclamations be on solid ground rather than structure."

If it were true in 2004 that it is preferable to build parking structures on the periphery of a park and better to reclaim parkland on solid ground rather than atop a structure, would this not be true today? Have the political pressures for this one proposal to resolve the traffic and parking problem in our park clouded our vision?

The goal that we all seek is to remove cars from Plaza de Panama. This action might be done easily at a fraction of the cost of this project. The proposed project as delineated in the MOU defies logic and common sense.

In closing, the League of Women Voters supports open and transparent government with citizens involved in the process. To commit to a project, before alternatives have been reviewed and considered, undermines this process and the citizens' role in it.



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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.

PLEASE JOIN LEAGUE

Individual Membership \$65 Additional Household Memberships \$35 _____

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

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