

LWVSD UNITS TO STUDY REDEVELOPMENT – AGAIN!

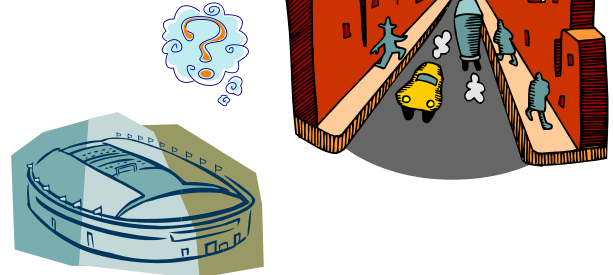
re-de-vel-op-ment n : *the act or process of building again; esp.: renovation of a blighted area; in California, following the procedures of the California Health & Safety Code, Sections 33000 et seq.; depending on one’s point of view, enriching developers through government action, or saving neighborhoods for the residents.*

Redevelopment is in the news again. The downtown redevelopment cap has been lifted, opening the way, some say, for a new Chargers football stadium. What does “lifting the cap” mean? Is this the best way to eliminate blight? Is downtown really still blighted? Some people are outraged and say the mayor should no longer lead redevelopment in San Diego. Should the League take a position on these and other issues facing redevelopment?

In 2006, the Units studied redevelopment in depth with the help of redevelopment lawyer Mike Jenkins and in early 2007 took a tour of redevelopment project areas led by Shirley Larson and Mike Jenkins. For 2011, Mike has come up with a 10-question quiz on redevelopment. Here are two sample questions:

(1) Senate Bill 863, the state budget amendment that lifts the cap on collecting downtown redevelopment revenues, is (choose one):

- a.) a good deal for the City of San Diego
- b.) a bad deal for the County of San Diego
- c.) neither a good deal nor a bad deal for San Diego schools
- d.) a bad deal for the State of California
- e.) all of the above
- f.) none of the above



(2) Senate Bill 863 specifically authorizes using redevelopment revenue to build a football stadium downtown.
 TRUE or FALSE?

Take the full quiz, get a refresher course on redevelopment, and learn the truth about redevelopment. See the unit meeting calendar on page 3.

— Jeanne Brown, V/P Program

Your January Voter

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Co-President's Report: Women's Rights Torpedoed, Again



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CEDAW: On November 18th, the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee convened a hearing on U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Four women, including Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, spoke passionately in support of ratification by citing such evidence as the 5.5 million women in the U.S. who are physically assaulted or raped each year, the thousands of women and girls trafficked into the U.S. each year and forced into prostitution or slavery-like conditions, the inequality between men and women in political representation and salaries/wages in the U.S. A spokesman from the Heritage Foundation countered these by concentrating on his interpretation of CEDAW Committee's country reviews from more than a decade ago, such as a recommendation to ease abortion laws and an attack on motherhood which are inaccurate readings of CEDAW and the committee's work.

In his comments, Subcommittee Chair Dick Durbin concluded that the United States should ratify CEDAW without further delay "because CEDAW will enhance our ability to advocate for women and girls around the world." However, to achieve a two-thirds vote in favor of ratification (67 of 100 votes) in the U.S. Senate, after approval from the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee, is highly unlikely. Although 186 nations have ratified CEDAW, the U.S. continues to join seven other countries (e.g., Sudan, Somalia, Iran, and three Pacific Islands) in not ratifying this 30-year-old treaty.

IPGPCMA: On December 1, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, meaning all Senators voted yes on this legislation. On December 16, the U.S. House of Representatives astonishingly responded by voting against passage by falling 51 votes short in achieving a total of 290 in favor. If passed, the bill would have authorized the president to provide assistance "to prevent the incidence of child marriage in developing countries through the promotion of educational, health, economic, social, and legal empowerment of girls and women."

United Nations research results show that: the younger the bride, the younger the mother, the higher the fertility rate, the higher the infant mortality rate, and the higher the maternal mortality rate. Niger and Afghanistan rank the highest in almost all five of these indicators, e.g., both have the highest fertility rate of more than seven live births per mother. UNICEF estimates that 60 million women in developing countries now aged between 20 and 24 were married before they reached 18, a number that could reach 100 million during the next decade.

Proponents of this act voiced their anger by stating that child marriage is for

2011 - 2015 is too costly and that the funds could be used to promote abortion. Senator Dick Durbin fumed and scolded his colleagues in the house: "those who voted to continue this barbaric practice brought shame to Capitol Hill."

IVAWA: Also during December, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), which provides for the development of a comprehensive strategy to reduce violence against women and girls internationally, including an emergency response to critical or widespread incidents of violence in situations of armed conflict. Although the IVAWA does not deal with abortion, this widely supported bill had been held up by anti-abortion politics. To pass the bill out of committee, funding had to be kept to existing resources; however, it is unlikely that the bill will pass either the House or Senate and will have to be re-introduced in the 112th Congress.


It seems as though legislation related to women's rights is being held hostage by anti-choice members of Congress. We can only hope that invoking the abortion issue to every piece of women's legislation will be shown for what it is, a deceptive action against the empowerment and advancement of women and girls, an attack on our human rights.

— Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

UNIT CALENDAR — January REDEVELOPMENT

Saturday, Jan. 8 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Frances Bumpus (619) 263-7335 La Quita Robbins (619) 470-9095
Monday, Jan. 10 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	The Gateway - TV Room 12751 Gateway Park Road Poway, CA 92064	Claire Weiner (858) 679-7350 Betsy Stephens (858) 451-5653
Monday, Jan. 10 2 - 4 p.m.	Coronado	Coronado Public Library 640 Orange Avenue Coronado, CA 92118	Nancy Cuddy (619) 437-4597
Tuesday, Jan. 11 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. 11 1 - 3 p.m.	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Shirley Larson (858) 272-9752 Marianne Kobrak (858) 450-1521
Wednesday, Jan. 12 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Mission Valley	IHOP near Mission Valley Library San Diego, CA 92108 (temporary location)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353
Thursday, Jan. 13 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
North Shores/Point Loma		No longer meeting – members are encouraged to attend other units until we find new arrangements	
Friday, Jan. 14 1 - 3 p.m.	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474

LWVSD CALENDAR — January

4	T	LWVSD Board, LWVSD Office, 5:30 p.m.	
6	Th	Unit Council, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.	
7	F	County League Board, LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.	
8-14		Units - Redevelopment	
14	F	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.	
15	S	Martin Luther King Multicultural Festival, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. (details p. 4)	
19	W	Education Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.	
20	Th	Roe v Wade Dinner, 6 p.m. (details p. 8)	
22	Sa	Program Planning, Linda Vista Library, 2160 Ulric Street, San Diego, 10 a.m. (details p. 5)	
23	Su	Introduction to League, 2 p.m. (details p. 4)	
24	M	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.	
28	F	Program Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.	
29	Sa	Introduction to League, 1 p.m. (details p. 4)	

MEMBERSHIP

Membership In League



Exercises Your Brain

New Member

Please welcome Martha Wild from zip code 92104 into our membership. With all of the holiday events and slow-down of League activities, membership growth has also taken a vacation.

Martin Luther King Jr. Multicultural Festival

The LWVSD will have a table at this festival after the MLK Parade down by Petco Park on Saturday, January 15th from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Come share your excitement about the League and our work with the thousands of visitors expected at this event. Contact Beryl Flom for specifics at 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net

Introduction to League Meetings

Periodically, the League of Women Voters of San Diego hosts orientation meetings for new members and those who have expressed an interest in the League. It is a time to meet League leaders; learn what the League does and how they do it; and to hear about upcoming events, studies, and advocacy. In order to provide more flexibility, the membership committee welcomes you to any of the following gatherings:

Sunday, January 23, 2 p.m. - Beryl Flom's home, 1577 Vista Claridad, La Jolla 92037, 858-459-4406

Saturday, January 29, 1 p.m. - 4S Ranch Library, Community Room, 10433 Reserve Dr., San Diego 92127, 858-673-4697

Saturday, February 12, 2 p.m. - Nancy Cuddy's home, 870 Country Club Lane, Coronado 92118, 619-437-4597

Saturday, February 26, 2 p.m. - Dolores Nelson's home, 1385 Don Carlos Ct., Chula Vista 91910, 619-421-9094

There is no need to RSVP. Please call if you need driving directions or a ride. Feel free to invite others. Refreshments will be served.

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

SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

San Diego County is seeking volunteers for the 2011-2012 County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury consists of 19 volunteers who commit to investigating and reporting on local governmental operations within the County for a one year period of approximately four days per week, six hours per day in the interest of ensuring good government.

To be a juror you must: 1) be a U.S. citizen, 2) be at least 18 years of age, 3) be a resident of San Diego County for at least one year immediately prior to beginning service, 4) possess intelligence, sound judgment and good character, and 5) have sufficient knowledge of English to communicate orally and in writing.

The benefits to being a juror are the pride that comes with making a significant contribution to the community, the additional knowledge you will gain about local government, plus

free reserved parking at the courthouse, compensation for mileage and \$25 per day.

If you are interested, you can obtain an application by contacting the Office of the Jury Commissioner at (619) 685-6667 or www.sdcounty.ca.gov/grandjury. Your application will be reviewed by a Superior Court judge followed by an interview and then your name will be added to the pool of nominees. In June there will be a random drawing of 30 names, 19 grand jurors and 11 alternates.



Although it is a major commitment of time and effort, it is a rich and rewarding experience. If you have any questions, please call Joan Dahlin at (858) 454-5019.

GETTING MORE ACTIVE IN THE NEW YEAR

This is the time for New Year's resolutions. Have you made any? One resolution that you might want to consider is to become more active ... in the League. The League has a number of committees that are always looking for members. Let's take a look at them and see if there are any that might appeal to you.

EDUCATION — The education committee meets monthly. Our focus for the past two years has been pre-school education and advocating for it with the school board members, the superintendent, and area superintendents. During this next year we will be supporting the San Diego Unified School District in establishing Transitional Kindergartens. Our committee has been partnering with Preschool California, the Early Childhood Education Department of the County Board of Education, and San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. We sponsor a yearly luncheon in April. This year's topic will be "Strategies That Work for Closing the Achievement Gap in the Early Learning Environment."

Chair: Penny Adler, dadler@ucsd.edu

MEMBERSHIP — Recruiting new members and getting people connected to issues that interest them is the function of the membership committee. The committee is composed of at least one member from each unit so that visitors to unit meetings are welcomed. Committee members also plan and attend "Introduction to the League" meetings and welcome visitors at General Meetings and League events.

Chair: Beryl Flom, (858) 459-4406, edflom@sbcglobal.net

NATURAL RESOURCES — The natural resource committee does not have a chair this year and so it has not been meeting. We need to have someone take over this important committee. In the past this committee has had a table at the Earth Fair in Balboa Park for Earth Day and has often sponsored a luncheon. The League did have a General Meeting about Prop 23 this past fall but otherwise this issue is not being covered. Chair: unfilled

PROGRAM — the program committee meets and plans the topics that are covered at units, at luncheons, and at other general meetings. We use information that the membership gives us at the previous year's program planning and at the annual meeting, along with current events. We use our creativity to plan presentations that are informative, easy to understand, and significant.

Chair: Jeanne Brown, (619) 857-1807, jhisten@cox.net

PUBLIC POLICY — The public policy committee meets monthly. We keep current on local issues affecting our community. We also review existing League positions and act on them when appropriate. A few of the issues that we are currently examining include the downtown waterfront, Miramar Landfill, Balboa Park, and homelessness in San Diego. The committee also welcomes your ideas for new issues that we might examine.

Chair: Susan Baer, sbaer@san.rr.com

Each committee meets regularly and you can see when they meet by checking the monthly calendar in the *Voter* and on our website. Consider which of these would benefit most from your involvement. Each committee would appreciate new ideas and fresh viewpoints. Be more active ... join a League committee.

— Jeanne Brown, V/P Program, jhisten@cox.net

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their government." Thomas Jefferson

PROGRAM PLANNING

Saturday, January 22, 10 a.m.

What are the issues that you think are important for the League to concentrate on next year? If you want your views to be heard, join us at

Linda Vista Library
2160 Ulric Street
San Diego 92111

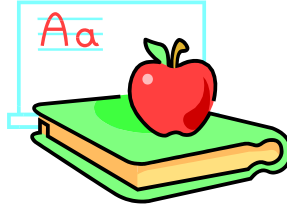
We will be deciding what we want to do locally and giving input to the State League for their planning. See you there!

— Jeanne Brown, V/P Program

SAVE THE DATE!

SDCS Superintendent Discusses “Transitional Kindergarten” with LWVSD Education Committee

When the Education Committee met with San Diego Unified Schools Superintendent Kowba in November, its members were keen to hear his reaction to a new state law that allows districts to establish “Transitional Kindergartens.” These kindergartens are designed to help children turning five on or before December 2 and who are not yet developmentally ready to meet the state’s academic standards for kindergarten curriculum. League members were pleased to hear that Superintendent Kowba was gathering information on the best practices used by California school districts that have already opened transitional kindergartens even before the law was passed.



At the school board meeting the previous day, one option considered for reducing the budget deficit was reducing the full day kindergarten to half-day. It is projected that \$120 million will have to be cut from the district’s budget unless the incoming governor and legislature agree on a budget that is less draconian for school districts. Superintendent Kowba said, “\$400,000,000 has already been cut from the budget in the past four years. All of the options for further cuts will seriously affect student learning. However, since kindergarten is not a state-mandated program, it has to be

considered as one of the possible budget cuts.”

Education committee members were gratified to learn that Superintendent Kowba recognizes the importance of early childhood education and is investigating how to implement a transitional kindergarten program. The budget deficit is not deterring the education committee from pressing forward with its plans to advocate for early childhood education in meetings with school board members and school district personnel .

Join the education committee at its annual luncheon on Friday, April 29, which will focus on strategies that work for closing the achievement gap in the early learning environment. These will include working with the dual-language learner, transitional kindergarten, and the results from the Preschool for All five-year pilot program.

San Diego League members are invited to join the education committee. It meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the League office.

— Penny Adler, V/P Education
(858) 272-3509 or dadler@ucsd.edu

Annual Session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women

If you are interested in attending the CSW55 session this year at the United Nations in New York City, please contact Anne at ahoiberg@aol.com or (619) 223-8074. The session begins on February 22 and concludes on March 4, 2011. Hundreds of workshops and panel presentations are scheduled throughout the two-week period, all free of charge and presented by experts from throughout the world. Many of us usually attend the session during the first week, but others have enjoyed the less- hectic second week. You will be responsible for funding your airfare, hotel accommodations, and theatre tickets. If you wish to share a room or suite, let me know that, too.



— Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

Summary of LWVSD Finances 2009-2010

Category	Income	Expenses
Administration	\$5,264	\$37,558
Citizen Education	\$24,615	\$14,741
Membership	\$26,980	\$19,421
Newsletter/Voter	\$62	\$2,925
Voter Service	\$701	\$0
Development/Special Events	\$11,378	\$421
Total	\$69,100	\$75,066
Net Income	-\$5,966	
Total Liabilities & Equity		\$88,179

— Delores Chavez-Harms, Treasurer

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Public Policy Committee has been very busy. Committee members wrote the following comments about the North Embarcadero Port Master Plan Amendment Environmental Review Notice of Preparation, and our Board reviewed these comments before we submitted them to the Port.

November 17, 2010

Re: North Embarcadero PMPA

James Hirsch

Senior Redevelopment Planner

San Diego Unified Port District

Land Use Planning Department

P.O. Box 120488

San Diego, CA 92112-0488

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego greatly values public participation, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input about the North Embarcadero Port Master Plan Amendment Environmental Review Notice of Preparation (NOP). We hold the position that the San Diego Unified Port District should protect the natural environment as a primary responsibility, emphasize recreation for the general public, and be accountable and responsive to member cities and the public. In addition, we believe that recreation for the general public at free or minimal cost should have a high priority in decisions about the use of port land and waterways. Regarding the NOP, our League therefore requests the following:

- Maximum public access and views to the bay.
- Evaluation of the environmental impact of removing the crescent pier and consolidating into two piers. This analy-

sis should seriously consider public access, traffic, and the impact on waters of the bay.

- Evaluation of the environmental impact of Navy Pier including a park.
- Incorporation of a new Bayfront shuttle in the Port Master Plan.
- Analysis of the environmental impact of recognizing G St. Mole as a Memorial Park.
- Inclusion of a public hostel in the Environmental Impact Report plan and making the waterfront accessible to persons of all income levels.
- Analysis of building parking structures that are one level underground for aesthetic reasons.
- Evaluation and serious consideration of moving cruise ships to the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal.
- Evaluation of the 205' setback to maximize public and pedestrian access to the waterfront across Harbor Drive.
- Analysis of parks, plazas, and other open space along the North Embarcadero.
- Evaluation of the North Embarcadero to allow for pedestrian-oriented circulation, programmed events, and small sidewalk restaurants to activate waterfront space.
- Comprehensive traffic studies to evaluate moving traffic to Pacific Highway, to evaluate transit, and to maximize public access.
- Evaluation of the placement of Navy offices.
- Evaluation of the placement of public art along the North Embarcadero.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, I can be reached via e-mail at: sbaer@san.rr.com or phone at: 858-569-5183.

Sincerely,

Susan Baer, Ph.D.

Co-President, League of Women Voters of San Diego

Citizens United v FEC and DISCLOSE Act Topics for February Units

Last January, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision regarding the case of Citizens United v FEC (Federal Elections Commission). In brief, the decision swept away many years of precedent by the Court regarding campaign finance.

In April, members of Congress introduced a bill called the DISCLOSE (Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections) Act. It was written in response to the Supreme Court decision. Its purpose, to seek transparency in the campaign spending of groups in our national elections. The bill passed the House in July, but by September, it still wasn't possible to get cloture in the Senate so debate could not

begin. The Act could be brought up again during the lame-duck session, but the future of the bill is unknown at this time (early Dec.)

Be sure to watch for information on what is happening to this bill, for articles regarding the effects of the Citizens United v FEC decision on the recent general election and how the finance laws of state governments including California may be affected. This will help with having a lively discussion at the February units and for background on the topic at the February luncheon.

— Mary Jean Word, Program Committee

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Jody Tadder, Unit Coordinator

When Jody Tadder the newlywed met her new neighbor in the hallway of the apartment building and accepted her invitation to go to a League meeting that night, little did she know that would be the beginning of a lifelong activity of going to League meetings.

Jody's career at that time was in doing a daily television program for children, "Romper Room," headquartered in Baltimore and the reason she had moved from Columbus, Ohio, where she grew up and graduated from The Ohio State University, with a degree in a new major – broadcasting. Even President Kennedy seemed to be interested in television, and Jody was interested in knowing more about politics and government.

Living close to Washington, D.C. and in the heart of the land of the Civil War battle-grounds intrigued her, and the League brought to her life the answers to many questions in her new world of interest - politics. Jody also met lots of other women who she found were interested in these same issues. Going to League meetings became high on the list of things she wanted to do.

Eventually she became interested in the fiscal policies of the State of Maryland and even went to Annapolis to watch the sessions on the new Constitutional Convention for the state. Being part of unit meetings and annual meetings and attending city council meetings were squeezed into a life as mother of three boys and a helping hand in her husband's photography business. She continued to hold the fiscal policy position for the State Board for several years. Jody

found time to help two of Maryland's best cooks with what became the Annual Meeting Dinner – cooked and managed all by Leaguers with the mayor and city council members in attendance. It became a big fundraiser.

Eventually Jody decided to go back to college, Goucher College, (where Beryl Flom earned her bachelor's), but this time it was as part of a program to get women who had worked in the community to re-enter the workforce in business management. This was a special grant that Goucher had received from the government for just 20 women and Jody won one of those spots. Her paid internship with IBM in Baltimore began a whole new career for the next 20 years. During those years Jody supported the LWV but couldn't be active.



When Jody decided to move to California after the children moved here, one of the first things she did was contact the LWV to begin again to meet the interesting and active women of League. Since joining in San Diego in 1999-2000, Jody has been on the Board in various positions, usually helping with fundraising and serving holiday party dinners, and she is currently the unit coordinator.

Jody is president of the Foundation Fighting Blindness local chapter. In addition, she continues to operate a small woman-owned business selling furnishing and furniture to the government facilities here in San Diego.

38th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade!

All League members are invited to the anniversary celebration of Choice, an evening with acclaimed author, Dr. Susan Wicklund, Thursday, January 20, at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue, 92104. No-host cocktails begin at 6:00 P.M., followed by dinner at 7:00. For information and ticket purchases, contact www.roesandiego.org or telephone (619) 881-4539. Tickets are \$60 in advance or \$65 after January 15. Checks, made payable to "Coalition for Reproductive Choice," can be mailed to Planned Parenthood, 1075 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108. If you wish to join the LWVSD table, please indicate that on your reservation. LWVSD is a member of the coalition.



— Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

Twas the Night

Twas the night before all major religious holidays in December,
And all through the League office
Far too many creatures are stirring, and all are holiday crazed.
Why, there's Beryl, multitasking by filing and adding each new member
Then off to prepare holiday dinner for a huge number.
Of course, she's totally nonplused and unfazed.



Co-Presidents stroll in: Susan in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Here to retrieve League materials to read before a pre-holiday nap.
In walks Shirley L., Cathy Cleary, and Jeanne all with their latest letter to-the-editor in hand,
Followed by Marjie with her Board of Supervisor's speech, all to be applauded for taking a stand.
Speakers' Bureau Chair Margaret and speakers Alice and Debbie pop in with Prop Talk Reports,
And, Secretary Nancy Witt rushes to the files with copies of past six month's minutes and retorts.



When out in the hallway there arises such a clatter,
Shirley rushes to the door to see what is the matter:
"Why it's Jody loaded down with stacks of January Voters,
Followed by Unit Chairs and Members eager to start as fast folders."
Jody cheers them on: "Now Kathleen, Now Claire, Now Judy S., Now Joan, Now Ethel,
Now Fran, Now La Quita, and Sherry.
On Carole, On Salimisha, On Jean, On Lisa, On Phoebe, On Nancy C., On Gwen—
the Voters must be mailed no later than four-thirty."

Past Pres. Sylvia appears all dressed in red from her head to her knees,
Gives us a holiday greeting and off to a party she flees,
With Treasurer Delores's check for postage, June sings out, "Now dash away, dash away all."
But wait, Editor Dolores shows up with Voter inserts, a pile at least one-foot tall.

Catherine S. calls on her cell for more help: Anne-Marie, Susan Betts, Marilyn, Judy R., Lila, Adrienne, Gloria, Nancy M., Faye,
And speed dials Dorene, Joyce J., Sharon, Jeannette, Shirley W., Laurel, Nancy H., and Kay.
More rapid than eagles these Leaguers they came,
Opened the Voters, inserted, and closed each the same.

I realize then that my Co-President's report isn't finished.
Co- Pres. Susan writes instead that the Embarcadero will not be diminished.
V.P. Jeanne speaks not a word, but goes straight to her work,
Gathers all those Voters and says, as she turns with a jerk,
"I'm off to the post office," and then, we all hear her exclaim as she rushes out of sight,
"Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good-night."



— Anne Hoiberg, Co-President



Invitation to join the January 30th protest in Palm Springs

Common Cause is inviting concerned people from all over Southern California to meet and confront the Koch brothers as they plan their next assault on our democracy. We will be learning more about the Supreme Court decision in the Citizens United decision in February units and luncheon, but if you're mad about it now, please join others to demonstrate our fear of vast amounts of money in politics.

Koch Industries is the longtime underwriter of libertarian causes such as the Cato Institute in Washington and the ballot initiative that would have suspended California's landmark law

capping greenhouse gases (Prop 23). According to the *New York Times*, this group is planning a confidential meeting at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa to, in their words, "develop strategies to counter the most severe threats facing our free society and outline a vision of how we can foster a renewal of American free enterprise and prosperity." Privatization through corporate influence on our elections is one of their main strategies in order to accomplish this "renewal."

For more information, contact

— Jeanne Brown at jbrown@commoncause.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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