

ANNUAL MEETING — Charter Schools — June 4

Education is on everyone's mind these days. Are public schools doing the job or not? What are the alternatives? Many are looking at Charter Schools as a possible solution. There are 912 charter schools in California. In San Diego County there are 96 charter schools with 41 of those in San Diego Unified School District. What exactly are charter schools and why are they called "charter"?

The "charter" establishing each such school is a contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. In California, charters are granted for five years. At the end of the term, the entity granting the charter ("authorizer") may renew the school's contract. Charter schools are accountable to their authorizer, and to the students and families they serve, to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract.

Like traditional public schools, charters receive state funding based on a formula for each child enrolled in the school. Many charters also do
(continued on page 3)

Democracy in Crisis – Our June 29 Luncheon

Steven Freeman holds a PhD from MIT's Sloan School of Management and is on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Organizational Dynamics, where he teaches methods and survey design (a domain that includes exit polling). It was while he was comparing the exit polls from the 2004 election and the final election results that "...it seemed inexplicable to me that exit polls could be that far off." A statistician, he kept looking into the data to see how this could happen. This research eventually led him to writing the book, **Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen?**



I heard him speak at a forum on election integrity last June and was very impressed with his information. He admitted that he is not political; in fact, he hates politics. He addressed this totally as a data scientist, which was what made his presentation so credible and unnerving. It turns out that he attends a convention in San Diego each June, so he will be speaking at Lunch with League on June 29th at Tom Ham's. Since that time he has investigated more election data, up to and including this April's elections in Wisconsin and the news is not good; thus his title, "Democracy in Crisis."

As League members, we know that our elections are crucial to our democracy and their integrity must be assured. Therefore it is important that we take seriously all credible information that suggests that they may not be. Please join me as we listen and analyze the controversy that his research has created.

— Jeanne Brown, VP/Program

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President's Report: Internationally Speaking

In 2000, 189 heads of state and governments met at the United Nations to discuss the most important problems to solve in the new century. At the conclusion of this World Summit, these leaders agreed that poverty encompassed the major global problem, impacting all 189 countries. Eight Millennium Development Goals were adopted to address poverty and other closely related issues, all to be reached by the year 2015.

In addition to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the other MDGs that primarily affect women and children include: achieving universal primary education (at least four years for all children worldwide), promoting gender equality and empowering women (increasing women's political participation), reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health, and decreasing maternal mortality.

In 2008, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon urged member states of the U.N. to adopt another MDG: to end violence against women by 2015. He initiated his UNiTE Campaign to stop all forms of violence against women, including in the home (e.g., physical, psychological, and sexual abuse), in the community (e.g., rape, sexual harassment, human trafficking), and at the country level (e.g., combat-related violence, rape as a war weapon). He called on "men around the world to lead by example: to make it clear that violence against women is an act perpetrated by a coward, and that speaking out against it is a badge of honor."



Progress has been reported in reaching the MDGs, most notably in achieving universal primary education. The economic recession and numerous natural disasters, however, have caused a slowdown in accomplishing as much progress as had been anticipated back in 2000. Electing women to political office continues to be a vexing concern although almost 100 countries incorporated a quota system of electing at least 30% women to serve in their parliaments or congresses. Only 23 countries report having achieved that 30% goal, and only 20 women serve as a president or prime minister.

The goal of reducing infant and maternal mortality rates tends to be related to the age of the mother. That is, the younger the bride, the younger the mother, the higher the infant mortality rate, the higher the maternal mortality rate. For example, Niger and Afghanistan have the highest rates on these indicators as well as the highest fertility (approximately seven babies per child-bearing girl or woman). Serious efforts, such as ending child marriages, need to be pursued to reach a significant decrease in these rates.

The incidents of violence against women have not declined, especially in war-torn countries and those emerging from conflict or revolution. Sadly, the number of children forced into prostitution has doubled since 1996. And, trafficking of women and children into forced labor or prostitution has become the second most lucrative criminal industry, tied for second place with the sale of weapons, below drug trafficking in first place.

Little has changed in making the world safe for women and children. A grassroots effort and political will are required if we hope to create a world fit for women and children.

— Anne Hoiberg, President

League of Women Voters San Diego

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LWVSD CALENDAR — JUNE - JULY 2011

3	F	County League Board (ILO), LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.
4	Sa	LWVSD Annual Meeting, 9:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mission Valley Library (pp 1, 3)
6	M	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office, 1 p.m.
11	Sa	LWV SD County Convention, 9:30 a.m. - 12: 30 p.m. (see flyer)
15	W	Education Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.
20	M	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.
25	Sa	LWVSD Unit Chair and Board Retreat, Jeanne Brown's home
29	W	Luncheon, Democracy in Crisis, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. (see page 1 and flyer)
1	F	County League Board (ILO), LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.
6	W	Education Committee, Assemblyman Fletcher, 10:30 a.m., at his office
9	Sa	LWVSD Board, Beryl Flom's Home, 9:30 a.m., lunch optional
18	M	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.
20	W	Education Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

Annual Meeting 2011

Saturday, June 4 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway

Unit Presentations Business Meeting Brunch

Speaker: Lisa Berlanga, Charter Schools Association

"Charter Schools: Their Place in the Public School System"

- Join other Leaguers to discuss next year's program and budget and to elect officers and directors.
 - Every member present is a voting delegate.
 - **\$15** includes brunch. No money accepted at door.
 - Reservations by June 1 required.

Registration details were included in the insert section of the May Voter and can be found online at www.lwvsandiego.org or call 858-483-8696

Charter Schools *(continued from page 1)*

additional fundraising to obtain grants and donations to pay for programs that are not fully funded by state or school district formulas.

When lawmakers passed the Charter Schools Act of 1992, California became the second state in the country (after Minnesota) to enact charter school legislation. The intent was to allow groups of educators, community members, parents, or others to create an alternative type of public school.

So how are they doing and will students get a better education from them? What do they do differently from regular schools?

To get answers to these questions, join us as we welcome Lisa Berlanga, our keynote speaker, at the Annual Meeting on June 4th at the Mission Valley Library.

— Jeanne Brown, VP/Program

MEMBERSHIP

Membership In League



Exercises Your Brain

We welcome two new members this month and hope you will seek them out at upcoming meetings: Myles Pomeroy (92111) and Eleanor

that goes to LWWUS is going up a bit. Most of your dues is used to pay PMP and only a small portion stays in San Diego for operation of the League's office and one half-time office manager. We also depend on donations from members, past members, and friends of the League to meet our budget.

Rodney (92120).

An interest survey is being enclosed with the dues renewal letter. Even if you filled one out in the past, please update us with your interests (our list has changed too). It is vital that your membership in the League meet your objectives for joining. This interest survey helps us do that with you.

At the Annual Meeting we will be honoring Donna Jean Meyer for her 50-year membership - her bio was in last month's Voter insert.

Dues renewal letters are being mailed toward the end of June for the fiscal year 2011-12. Our dues are not being raised although the PMP (per member payment)

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

UPDATE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

California voters passed the Prop 10 initiative in 1998 to increase the tax on tobacco to provide for early childhood services exclusively. The First 5 Commission of San Diego oversees our county's share of the state funds. The Pre-K for All five-year pilot program ends this year.

However, with the passage of the California State bill AB 99, 50% or \$89,000,000 of the Pre-K reserve funds will be taken away. This is thought to be illegal since the bill specifically states that the funds cannot be used to "backfill" other budgetary needs. Several independent school districts including Los Angeles are suing the state.

Our county commission has agreed to retain existing programs. However, the loss of the funds means that Pre-K programs, where there is a dramatically positive cost/

benefit ratio, will not be expanded. Those who would benefit most educationally would continue to be neglected. The San Diego Unified District has a "School Readiness" program that is funded by state funds, not attached to Prop 10. These funds disappear June 2011. No additional revenue is on the horizon.

LWVSD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

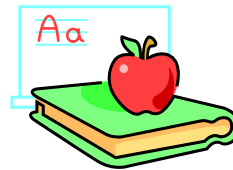
Please contact your state legislators, Governor Brown, and the First 5 Commissioners (www.first5sandiego.org) and let them know that AB 99 is unacceptable unless funds for early childhood education programs are reinstated. Pre-K needs to retain their funds. Readiness programs are of paramount importance.

— Adrienne Schere, Education Committee

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We will be seeking concurrence at the Annual Meeting on sections of the State League's position on Education to be included in the local league's positions on Education:

The League of Women Voters of San Diego supports a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; and develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. All children should enter school ready to learn to their fullest potential. Measures to ensure this are: a) school readiness programs, including universal access to preschools that are high quality, developmentally appropriate, and voluntary; and b) outreach to and support for parents of young children to enable parents to contribute to their child's readiness to learn. The District is responsible for a) seeking input on educational priorities from all stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school site councils, school board members, principals, teachers, parents, and community organizations; and b) utilizing available flexibility and funds to meet local priorities.



— Penny Adler, VP/Education

WHAT YOU MISSED BY NOT GOING TO CONVENTION

The state LWV of California Convention was a wonderful gathering of over 250 members and staff from across the state. The LWV from Ventura hosted the convention along with a few small local leagues. If we had had more delegates, we would have been able to cover more workshops to learn all they had to offer. The dignitaries who attended the four-day event, which ran from May 12 — 15, Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian and Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fiona Ma, spoke about the current political climate in California and across the nation as well as the current situation on California's budget crisis. Elizabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, gave an inspiring speech that included an analogy of politics and driving, specifically road rage by some politicians and detours by others. She also mentioned the politics in California versus Georgia, and how California is ahead of the curve on many of our disclosure and redistricting policies. Sometimes it is nice to be reminded how all of our hard work is paying off, and many are looking to us for inspiration and good governance.

Several plenary sessions in the packed four-day event brought the delegates to the edges of their seats. On issues such as single payer healthcare and a motion to create a criminal justice position we lost by only four or fewer votes — votes that if we had a complete delegation from San Diego, we may have possibly forced the decisions to go the other way. We have a membership large enough to bring nine voting delegates, yet only three decided to go. We encourage more to attend in 2013 so that such a small margin does not prevent us from continuing our important work.

There were two main themes voiced at the convention. First, California's suffrage is turning 100 years, and we want to remember how far we, as an organization, have come. The second theme is that today's League is facing a membership challenge. The League, as many convention workshops reported, is facing a diversity issue and is lagging in recruiting younger people. As members discussed and brainstormed these challenges, we agreed that technology is a pertinent and appropriate



tool for reaching new and younger members.

The new LWVC president is Jennifer Waggoner, the former communications director. She is 38 years old and is looking to see the League come into the 21st century with our websites, Skype, webinars, Facebook, YouTube, and other creative ways to reach out to new groups of people. San Diego's own Pat Richardson and her hard work in creating the Smart Voter was mentioned. Actually, the Smart Voter was mentioned several times for its effectiveness and how it has spread across the country, replacing the older voter411.org system. Smart Voter was praised as one of the best tools the League is using today to help inform voters.

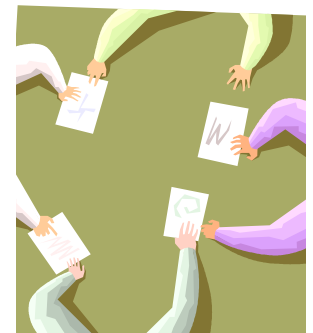
Along with using technology to enlighten citizens and increase our membership, working with partners from diverse organizations and companies was also emphasized. We need to strengthen our partnerships with AAUW, Common Cause, CPI, AARP, Community Colleges, libraries, San Diego Urban League, Chicano Federation, and many more groups.

The 100th anniversary of California's women getting the vote will be in October. We need to all start planning now for a celebration. Perhaps we should hold our monumental event at the Prado? If we want to do this, we need to start planning now. We will need volunteers to help.

Next year's Leadership Council is scheduled for Sacramento, and the location for the 2013 LWVC Convention is still undetermined. Should LWV of San Diego hold the next state convention?

The LWVUS convention will be in Washington DC next May and hope some members might plan on attending

— Amy Hjerstadt
— Jeanne Brown
— Shirley Larson



League Opposition to Privatization of the Miramar Landfill Testimony Presented to San Diego City Council by Beryl Flom

On May 18, Jeanne Brown, Marjie Larson, Shirley Larson, and I attended the San Diego City Council Rules Committee meeting which decided on whether to send the Preliminary Statement of Work drafted by the mayor's office to the full council for outsourcing Miramar Landfill operations and for monitoring all the closed landfills in the city. CPI organized a coalition of groups and speakers (including the League which I represented), and Jeanne arranged for High Tech High/International to send a class of students including three speakers. The room was full, and we managed to convince them to get questions answered and changes made before it went to the council (4-1 vote with Councilman Faulconer against slowing it down). Three of the five want a written statement from the Navy that they know the city is planning to outsource the landfill and they agree with it. (In my opinion, they will never get it in advance and they will never get it in the next month which was the imposed deadline.) They all had several questions they want answered in the next month. Chairman Young requested that it be on the agenda for rules on 6/22 at 9:00 a.m. and then go to council on 6/27, but the mayor's representative said that five days probably was too rushed. Councilwoman Emerald said that the contractors' documents should be in public record.

Following is the League's testimony:

"The League of Women Voters would like to know why the City of San Diego is moving forward in outsourcing the Miramar Landfill when the Phase II part of the Long Term Resource Management Options Strategic Plan has not even been completed. Phase I developed a list of options to extend the life of the landfill through re-

source recovery. Phase II is supposed to analyze them and cost them out so the council can vote on them.

"The League of Women Voters is concerned that the failed privatization and current attempt to outsource the operations of Miramar Landfill are the latest examples of a drastic decline in transparency of decisions that affect the public. The mayor's office has not provided documentation, a cost-basis analysis, and a CEQA review to the public and to the city council members who have to vote on this plan. Until this happens, the League maintains that the proposal to outsource Miramar Landfill is impossible and unwise to support.

"The voters who approved Prop C expect the quality of service, protection of the public interest, and economic and efficient operations to continue. If this cannot be proven in advance to be the case, the council members have their hands tied.

"If landfill operations are outsourced, the city will be responsible for careful and frequent oversight and monitoring. Yet citizens and council members would further lose transparency because documents are not in the public domain and decision-making meetings are not open to the public.

"By trying to accomplish this and other outsourcing projects along with budget hearings, council members and city staff are rushed and not able to put as much thought and care into drafting documents.

"The League urges the council members to get their questions answered before they proceed with the managed competition for Miramar Landfill."



Common Cause Community Meeting

Saturday, June 18, 12:00 noon - 2 p.m.

Mission Valley Library Community Room

Please join us as we look at the proposed measure called 'SanDiegans4GreatSchools' Featuring :

- ★ Richard Barrera, President, San Diego Unified Schools Board of Education
- ★ Scott Himelstein, San Diegans for Great Schools
- ★ Emily Alpert, Moderator, Voice of San Diego

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Amy Hjerstedt, Nominee for Co-chair ,Voter Service

I am 28 years old, mother of a spirited two-year old, and wife of a Coast Guard lieutenant. I am also a veteran of the Coast Guard. I served four years, three of which were during the significant changes in America due to September 2011.

I was born in Carmichael, CA, and went to middle and high school in rural Buffalo, MO. After a lot of debate between my parents during my senior year of high school, I joined the Coast Guard when I was 17 years old. My father wanted me to start college in California, and my mother insisted I join the military. Since I lived with my mom (my father lives in Penryn, CA), her influence persuaded me to join. Even though I had a grant to use at any community college in Missouri, I chose the Coast Guard because it sounded exciting, different from rural Missouri, and would look outstanding on a resume. Furthermore, my mom promised that I would see dolphins. (In MO there are only cows, so dolphins sounded magical in comparison.)

In September 2000, I took the long journey to Cape May, NJ, where the Coast Guard boot camp is held. After eight weeks of training, I was stationed to Eureka, CA, where I served on an 87-ft. U.S. Coast Guard cutter, Barracuda. Most of our missions consisted of fishery boardings, search and rescue cases, and some law enforcement issues. Twice we sailed to San Diego to help with drug interdiction and immigration enforcement. It was San Diego where I helped in my first search and rescue case by assisting an injured woman at sea.

I advanced to boatswain's mate third class petty officer (E-3) after a year and a half of service. After pinning on my new 'crows,' I was assigned to Alameda, CA, where I learned small boat handling. My new job positioned me as the first female small boat instructor on the Response Boat Team (RBT) at Pacific Area Training Team. I trained nearly every station and Marine Safety and Security Team (MSST) on the West Coast, including Guam, Hawaii, and Alaska. I was also sent to Canada to learn to operate small boats in heavy weather seas — an amazing experience.

I served on the RBT for two years then moved to MSST in Alameda and also donned my second class petty officer crowns (E-5). I served my last six months on one of the small boat teams conducting high-profile escorts in the San Francisco Bay, security missions in Concord, CA, and military offloads in Washington state.

Once completing my four years in the Coast Guard, I enrolled in College of Alameda, CA, where I earned my A.A. in liberal arts with highest honors just before moving to Portland, OR. Since my husband is still serving in the CG, we will continue to move from unit to unit for the next 10 to 15 years. In Portland I enrolled in Portland State University, earning my B.S. in social science, summa cum laude, in two years. Just two months after

graduating, I gave birth to my son, Gabriel Sinclair Hjerstedt. Nine months after Gabe was born, we moved our family to San Diego since the Coast Guard had assigned my husband, Mike, as an inspector of domestic and foreign ships. We have lived in the North Park area for two years, and we have one more year left at this 'station vacation' assignment.

I am currently a stay-at-home mom and a student. I am attending American Public University System, an online college, working towards my master's in political science. I am three classes and one thesis away from completion.

I joined the League while I attended Portland State. My experience with the LWV of Portland was both enlightening as well as a little overwhelming. I was the Speakers' Bureau coordinator and a co-chair on for Voter Services, which is not normally too difficult, but I did this while also working as a new mother to a five-week old baby during the 2008 presidential election. (Wow!) I got through it and the League successfully informed voters on all the propositions. I even enjoyed my own Speakers' Bureau event.

I am excited to work with the LWV of San Diego, and I cannot wait to help with Voter Services events and recruiting new members.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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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:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other _____ Please contact me with more information

Name(s) _____ Address _____

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

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