League of Women Voters of Monterey County

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / May 2017, Volume 89, Number 7

Saturday, May 13, 2017
LWVMC 90th Annual Meeting
with Guest Speaker LWVC President Helen Hutchinson

RSVPs Greatly Appreciated
Help us plan for enough coffee, light refreshments, and room set up. RSVP
Lisa Hoivik by Wednesday May 10.
Phone 375-7665, LHoivik@comcast.net

We Need a Quorum of Members
Per League by laws, we need a quorum in order to conduct League business, including election of officers and directors, budget, local program issues for emphasis, and updates to positions.

Don’t forget to Bring Your Agenda
A copy of the “Call to the Annual Meeting” is included in the center of this Voter (the white 6-page insert).

It includes the Agenda, as well as the Proposed Budget, the Account Balances and the Report of the Nominating Committee for you to review prior to discussion at 10:20am.

Guest Speaker
Helen Hutchison, President
League of Women Voters of California
“How the League of Women Voters is Responding to National Level Changes”

Changes to federal programs occurring at the national level significantly affect many National and State League positions. Helen will address how LWVC is responding to changes to federal policies and programs on health care, immigration, climate change, and environmental regulations, just to name a few.

While serving the state League, Helen has been active in strategic planning, initiative and referendum reform, human resources, training, legislation, ballot measures, and redistricting.

Saturday, May 13, Annual Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404

Registration and Coffee 10 am
Meeting 10:15 to 11am
Speaker LWVC
President Hutchinson
(including Q&A session)
11:00 to noon
(See full agenda in center of this issue)
RSVP please contact
Lisa Hoivik LHoivik@comcast.net

Additional Meeting Information
Janet Brennan JanetB@montereybay.com
President’s Message May 2017

It has been an honor to serve as President for the last three years. The job has been made possible because of the outstanding Board members with whom I have been privileged to work. Unlike many non-profit organizations which have paid staff, our League is a totally voluntary organization, and we are blessed to have so many talented and hard working members.

While I hesitate to call out any one of our Board members, I must give a special thanks to Dennis Mar. In addition to his Board responsibilities as a Voter Service Director, he has undertaken most of the administrative tasks that are essential to the running of a well-oiled organization. Other members who quietly go about important administrative tasks are Judy Lind, Kemay Eoyang and Tamara Harris who prepare an annual audit. Special thanks, too, to Kemay Eoyang for researching and writing many, many articles on issues important to the League.

Some highlights of the last three years include: completion of the merger between the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula Leagues; many candidate forums and lots of precinct work; completion of a LWVC study on higher education; numerous stimulating guest speakers; and action supporting Measure Z, pesticide buffers around schools, the Pebble Beach affordable housing project, and the TAMC Sales Tax and opposition to the Monterey Downs project.

After 50 years as a volunteer and a government employee, I have the opportunity to serve on a politically appointed board of directors. I have been appointed as the environmental representative on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency charged with developing a plan to bring the Basin into sustainability. As an interim appointee I will serve until September when a full-time appointee of the environmental sector will be elected by the Environmental Caucus.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@MontereyBay.com

To: Linda Irokawa-Otani, Regulations Coordinator and Brian Leahy, Director Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), PO Box 4015 Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

RE: Revisions to the draft regulations for pesticide use near schools

Dear Director Leahy and Coordinator Irokawa-Otani:

Californians for Pesticide Reform and fifty-three undersigned organizations [including the League of Women Voters of California], are extremely disappointed that DPR’s proposed revisions to the draft regulations for pesticide use near schools and daycares not only significantly weaken them but also fail to address the shortcomings of the original draft.

As amended, the regulations still do not adequately protect school children or staff from the health threats of highly hazardous drift-prone pesticide applications. While the proposed quarter-mile, part-time buffer zones represent an improvement for many counties, they are still inadequate and do not address the serious health threat posed by chronic exposure. A large and growing body of scientific evidence supports the need for a full-time, one-mile buffer zone in order to protect children from both chronic and acute exposures, and the vast majority of public comments received by DPR echoed this demand.
At the very least, DPR should extend the buffer zone period to include times “when children are present” on school property, as is the current permit condition language in numerous counties, including Kern, Imperial, San Luis Obispo, Sutter, and Santa Barbara Counties. The proposed buffer zones, from 6 am to 6 pm on school days, fail to address the potential for exposure during after-school and weekend events and activities, as well as in the early morning hours when childcare centers are open.

We are dismayed that you have removed the 48-hour notification requirement from the draft regulations. All students, parents, teachers and administrators have the right to know when drift-prone toxic pesticides are in use nearby so that they can take appropriate steps to prevent exposure, but such information is extremely difficult to find. You note that you will revisit the notification requirement once the pilot programs in Kern and Monterey Counties are complete, but fail to note that at least one county, Santa Cruz, has for years successfully provided five-day notice to schools in advance of fumigant applications – surely a model that could be replicated. At a minimum, DPR must require County Agricultural Commissioners to post 48-hour notice on their websites of planned applications of restricted materials within the school buffer zone, so that concerned community members can access what is at present essentially secret information.

Finally, we ask that DPR extend its proposed ban on fumigant applications within the school buffer zone for 36 hours before school is in session to include organophosphate pesticides, a class of chemicals that is linked to severe neurological and respiratory damage.

Sincerely
Sarah Aird, Co-Director
Californians for Pesticide Reform
[and the following organizations]
George Riley joined LWVMC about a dozen years ago because, “I’m a public policy wonk,” he says, “and it was the only place I thought carried on a serious discussion on public policy issues. I wanted to be part of that.” He started as a member of the League’s Government Committee and now has been head of the Natural Resources Committee for nearly a decade.

A native of the East Coast, George grew up in Woodstock, VA, near the US Capitol. He earned his BS from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, where he played football and basketball and was president of his fraternity. Then, after serving in the US Navy, he earned his master’s degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and began a long career in public service.

George’s first jobs were working for a small city in New Jersey and then the City of Philadelphia. “Pennsylvania is a dreadful state for public business,” he recalls, but “it was alive and well in California.” So, in 1966, he headed to the West Coast, eventually finding employment with San Mateo County as director of its poverty programs and special assistant to the county manager. George’s leadership in the anti-poverty program helped cool racial tensions in San Mateo County during the long hot summers of 1967 and 1968. He also led pioneering work in public defender structure, library services, a community-based network of support for pre- and post-welfare assistance and shelter aid for the homeless.

After retiring in 1992, George took up painting. In 1997, he and his wife, Judy Illa-Riley, an artist, decided to find a new home somewhere in Northern California. “Then, coming home from one of our Southern California trips, we stayed in Monterey and fell in love with it,” George recalls. “I’m so glad now. We were just in front of a housing bubble, so we were able to buy a nice house.” Judy, a potter and painter, died in 2015. During his retirement, George has become more and more active in public issues. “I was happily retired, I was painting, having a good time,” he says. “Then, in 2002, I started reading the newspaper more and couldn’t figure out why the City of Monterey and CalAm together were trying to eliminate the Water Management District. I thought, ‘What’s wrong with this picture?’” He started going to meetings and became an activist for water issues, eventually helping establish Public Water Now, the organization that sponsored Measure O in 2014. “We lost,” he says of Measure O, “but, in the face of a huge amount of opposition from elected officials and a huge expenditure by CalAm, we still got about 45 percent of the vote. We’re discussing a round two.”

In addition to his activities with the League and water issues, George is active with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program committee at CSUMB, the Peace Coalition, Veterans for Peace, the Green Party and Progressive Democrats of America. He is a member of the Monterey Peninsula Art Foundation. His artwork has been shown at the Pacific Grove Art Association, the Seaside Jazz Art Competition and the MPAF Gallery, which is located on Cannery Row.

When asked about what he’d like to see LWVMC accomplish in the future, George said, “I’d like to see it be more active on Salinas Valley issues—farming, safety, water sustainability, pesticide use. We’re a lot more active on the Peninsula than in the Valley, so I’d like to see us do more there.”

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com
LWVMC Legislative Interview: Anna Caballero 30th Assembly District

Anna Caballero was elected California State Assembly Member in 2016 to represent the Salinas Valley, Big Sur, San Benito County, Watsonville, Gilroy, and Morgan Hill.

Anna has a 30-year legacy of public service in her community. After graduation from UCLA School of Law she provided services to farmworkers and working families in Salinas and Hollister. She started the non-profit Partners in Peace to reduce youth and gang violence. She served on the Salinas City Council for seven years focussing on affordable housing, strengthening business and commercial opportunities for growth, redeveloping downtown, and providing more recreational space for kids and families.

In 1998 Anna became the first female Mayor of Salinas. When first elected to the Assembly in 2006, she continued to focus on the needs of local residents.

From 2010 to 2016, she served as Secretary of the Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency in Governor Brown’s cabinet, at which time she was the highest-ranking Latina in state government.

Funding of Elections: What legislative measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?

Caballero: I’m very interested in voter turnout. There are more ways to administer elections, such as same day registration. I could be interested in electronic efficiencies, but these must have a paper trail, and be separate from the internet to avoid hacking. I’m not sold on 16-year-old registration, maybe 17-year-old registration in anticipation of voting at 18. But registration and voting must mean something. The schools and parents are not educating young people in history and government, which is a big issue. I would like to see some campaign finance reform, but have no preferred approaches. Public financing is very expensive.

Water Resources: What kinds of legislative proposals would you support to ensure that enough water of adequate quality is available for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, and the environment in the face of over-stretched surface water and groundwater resources and climate conditions different than those California experienced in the last century?

Caballero: The Delta and Northern California supplies water to two-thirds of the State’s population---24 million in Southern California. The Delta tunnel project is not a growth project. It is to provide higher quality water by diverting water farther “upstream,” and to restore the health of the waterways for salmon and fisheries protection. Also more tertiary treatment is needed for urban recycling and to minimize degradation from waste discharges.

Rural unincorporated communities and poorer counties suffer the most. Investment is inadequate because of lower economic health. The state can help, but counties must step up more than they have. This is a challenge to the state. Another statewide challenge is the need for greater cooperation between water agencies for joint approaches. The state promotes the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which may hold the key for progress. Reclaimed water will be a huge part of future solutions. Any drop of water can help anywhere.

(continued on page 6)
What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2017? What are your personal priorities?

Caballero: The biggest challenge will be new initiatives or decisions at the federal level. Our State needs to be ready to react. This is a new position for the governor and legislature. One of my constituents warned “not to poke the bear,” but I believe what we do in California is to work from our values. It is not “poking the bear” when the state acts on its values. If the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is gutted, the state could lose $19 billion and affect 6 million people. This would probably lead the state to a single payer health plan.

My particular interest is affordable housing. The state needs to change how it treats cities with urban growth boundaries. Every city and community needs better options for affordable housing. It’s not simply more funding—smaller units must be allowed and promoted with more mixed use commercial and residential combinations. I’m working with others for a 1/4th of a cent sales tax statewide to help finance affordable housing. The state might tie the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to the minimum wage to assure there is a relationship to reality. Studies show that children of those with EITC did better in school, families were healthier, and the next generation better off. All this is tied together for making life more affordable for lower income families.

I’m also working with California State University Monterey Bay to develop a physician assistant degree program to help lower the cost of services to prepare for the coming crisis of elder populations without adequate health care resources.

Interview March 17 at Legislative District Office Salinas by Kalah Bumba kalahplans@aol.com, Judi Lehman jlehman@redshift.com, and George Riley georgetriley@gmail.com
**Membership Update**

**Membership Renewal Coming in July!**
During the LWVMC Summer Break (June/July/August) membership renewal letters will be sent out to all members. *We highly appreciate rapid responses.* Please tell us if you have any address, phone or e-mail updates, and send your annual dues as soon as you get your notice. Or you can use the form on the opposite page to renew even before then---we LOVE early responders!

Being prompt saves us the additional work and expense to keep pestering you to rejoin.

**Donations Always Appreciated**
Kindly consider sending an additional sum along with your dues as a gift to LWVMC or to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund (not tax deductible), or to the LWV California Education Fund (tax deductible).

**Scholarships Available**
If you need financial assistance to pay your dues, contact me about a partial or full scholarship. All requests are confidential.

Lisa Hoivik, 375-7665, LHoivik@comcast.net

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**League of Women Voters of Monterey County**

**Office / Board Meetings** Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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*(= Executive Committee)*

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**LWVMC The VOTER**
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phone (831) 648-8683

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LWVMC 2017 Calendar

MAY

LWVMC Board Meeting  
Monday, 8 May, 5:00 pm  
JanetB@montereybay.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting  
Thursday, 11 May, 12 noon  
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC 90th Annual Meeting  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Saturday, 13 May, 10am to 12 noon

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST

SUMMER BREAK  
No Regular Board, Lunch & Learn, or Committee Meetings

LWV California Convention  
Sacramento, June 2-4  
Judi Lehman, Bev Kreps & Nancy Selfridge to represent LWVMC  
https://lwvc.org/events/lwvc-convention

Annual Joint Board Meeting  
Saturday, July 8th, 10am to 12 noon  
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
jlehman@redshift.com

SEPTEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting  
Monday, 11 September, 5:00 pm  
JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League  
Wednesday, 13 September, 12 noon  
Topic and Speaker to be Announced  
JanetB@montereybay.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting  
Thursday, 14 September, 12 noon  
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com