



*League of Women Voters of Monterey County*



*The*

**VOTER**



*Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / October 2017, Volume 90, Number 2*

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

## **Congressman Jimmy Panetta: One Year Update**

**W**e are honored to have yet another distinguished Guest Speaker for this month's **Lunch & Learn** Meeting. **Congressman Jimmy Panetta** serves California's **20th Congressional District** in the **House of Representatives**, having been elected for the first time in 2016. Panetta will provide a synopsis of his first year representing California's Central Coast, which of course includes Monterey County. While bringing us up to date on progress and challenges in the House, Panetta will touch on topics of concern to our League, such as: climate change, redistricting, the budget, healthcare, and other issues. A question and answer session will follow his talk, so here's your chance to speak to power!



As a member of the **Agriculture** and the **Armed Services Committees**, and having grown up in Monterey County, Panetta knows the needs of our area, and what makes the Central Coast a special place. While acknowledging that agriculture is the economic engine of this district, Panetta knows that its only as strong as our community of farmers and farm workers. This District is also home to the **Navy Postgraduate School**, **Army Defense Foreign Language Institute**, **County Veterans Treatment Court**, a future **Central Coast Veterans Cemetery**, **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, **Fort Ord National Monument**, **Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve**, and **Monterey Bay Aquarium**. Panetta's concerns and issues are far ranging and deeply interesting. Come early to get a good seat, and bring a friend!

Questions? Contact **Judi Lehman**, [jlehman@redshift.com](mailto:jlehman@redshift.com)  
(additional information on Congressman Panetta, page 2)

### **LWVMC October 18, 2017 General Meeting** **(Note this is the 3rd Wednesday of the month!)**

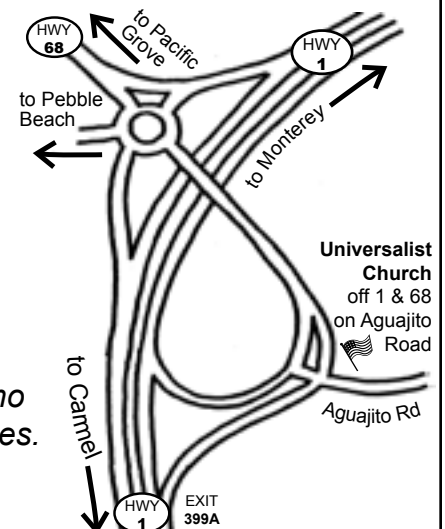
12 noon **Lunch** / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**  
(Lunch \$17 per person: main course, salad, beverages,  
& dessert by **The Valley Grille**).

**Reservations are a must for lunch!**  
**Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, October 14.**  
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail [GLFisher@redshift.com](mailto:GLFisher@redshift.com))

Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is **FREE**.

**Reminder:** The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org>  
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



# ★★★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2017 ★★★

This is my "postcard" to you from across America. I have been traveling for the past few weeks, mainly to attend my 50th High School Class Reunion in Wisconsin.

I'm still on the road, but will be back in time to Chair the **October 9 Board Meeting**. I look forward to seeing you then and/or at the **October 18 Lunch & Learn** to host **Congressman Jimmy Panetta**.

Special thanks to **Nancy Selfridge**, for chairing the September Board in my absence. I've been told she did a brilliant job in her capacity as **Vice President**.

Since no action or communication has been taken since the last Board, there is no **"Where the Action Is"** column for this issue of the Voter.

Judi Lehman, [jlehman@redshift.com](mailto:jlehman@redshift.com)

## Congressman Jimmy Panetta (continued from page 1)

### Service

From 2003-11, Panetta served as a Lieutenant in the **United States Navy, Reserve Component**. Despite being employed full time as an **Oakland Prosecutor**, he volunteered for active duty in 2007 and deployed to Afghanistan in support of **Operation Enduring Freedom**. For his work there as an Intelligence Officer in a Special Operations Task Force Panetta was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

### Veterans

Panetta continues to serve those who serve our nation as a **Monterey County Veterans Transition Center Board Member**, working to end veterans' homelessness. He helped establish our **Veterans Treatment Court** and, with local leaders and community members, gained the political will and funding to establish the **Central Coast Veterans Cemetery** (to be on the former Fort Ord). Panetta was named a **Monterey County Veteran of the Year** in 2015.



attending law school, he served aboard a **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** research vessel, and more recently served as an **MBNMS Advisory Council Member**.

### Hospitality & Economy

Tourists from around the world visit the Central Coast to explore our National Parks, Monuments, Reserves, and many other attractions. Panetta knows that this flourishing industry is based not only on exceptional hospitality and recreational, historical, and scenic, educational opportunities, but on maintaining a healthy, sustainable balance between our environment, economic growth, workforce, and residents' needs.

### Justice

Prior to his election, Panetta served as **Deputy District Attorney, Monterey County**, prosecuting violent gang members, pursuing justice for victims, and making communities safer.

### Education

Panetta graduated from **UC Davis** with a **BA in International Relations**, and received his law degree from **UC Santa Clara**.

### Family

Panetta is married to **Monterey County Superior Court Judge, Carrie McIntyre Panetta**. They have two daughters, Siri and Gia.

**Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta**

### Environment

The **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary** (MBNMS) is the largest protected ocean area in the continental United States. Anchored around this unique ecosystem are more than 40 world-class universities and marine research institutions working to better understand climate change, ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and more. Panetta values these institutions: even before



**P**roducing **The Voter** requires much more than the efforts of those who provide the content. Someone has to ride herd on contributors, edit and assemble the articles and photos into an attractive format and get the result to the printer on deadline. Luckily, we have **Regina Doyle** to perform these functions and make sure **The Voter** reaches members on time and looking good.



*heavily involved in the campaign to deal with the disease."*

In Uganda, Regina met and married **Brendan**, a UNICEF Water Supply and Environmental Engineer from Ireland. By 1989, feeling they both needed master's degrees, they moved to London, where Regina earned hers at the University of London's Institute

of Education and Brendan got his at the London School of Economics.

Regina moved to her childhood hometown, Pacific Grove, in 2000 and joined the League a couple of years later. *"I already knew a lot about the League," she says. "I appreciated its neutrality, offering voters such well thought-out arguments for both sides of political issues."*

In 1991, the Doyles joined **UNICEF New York**, in global development programs. In 1997, they returned to Africa to support UNICEF's Regional Programs in Eastern and Southern African Countries. In 2000, using Pacific Grove as a "base," they provided consulting services to various development agencies. Now "retired," they continue to travel the world for pleasure, including visiting Brendan's family in Ireland once or twice a year.

Before moving back to PG to live near her mother, Regina's amazing career in health education materials production kept her abroad for many years. *"I started out in 1978 with the **Peace Corps** as the administrator of a health project in Liberia," she says. "I was supposed to be there to be a manager, but it turned out I could do medical illustrations, so that added to my duties."*

Retirement for Regina included being elected to the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board**, representing Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach and part of Carmel. Joining the League gave her more time to devote to another passion, voting rights. *"I registered to vote at 18," she says, "and when I was overseas, I used the US Embassy pouch to send my ballots home."* Now she volunteers at the election polls every year.

In 1980 Regina transferred to the **UN Volunteers**. *"I ordered machinery and materials and set up a health education materials production unit in the Ministry of Health," she explains. This allowed them to print locally relevant textbooks, charts and teaching aids for doctors, nurses, midwives, clinic workers and teachers on immunization, sanitation, germ theory, nutrition—"everything and anything to promote health and prevent disease."* She recruited and trained Liberians so that when she left, the work could continue.

She wants the League continue to do everything possible to protect voting rights, particularly against phony claims of voter fraud. *"We need to protect free voting in this country, prevent voter rolls from being closed down and promote the rights of people of color and the less well-off who are being disenfranchised," she says. "It's not a democracy if a minority of the people make the decisions for the majority."*

Since she'd had no formal education in graphic design, Regina spent a year studying at American University. Then she took a job as a Health Education Officer with UNICEF Uganda for the next six years. *"That was the advent of AIDS awareness in Africa," she says. "UNICEF was*

**Nancy Baker Jacobs,**  
[Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com](mailto:Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com)

# TOURISTS: NUISANCE OR BENEFIT?

**W**hen tens of thousands of visitors arrive on the Monterey Peninsula for large special events, do you wonder: **where do visitors stay and do the citizens of Monterey County benefit from large special events?**

## "Hotel Tax" Revenue

Though locals complain about tourists, we benefit from tourism. One of the largest to Monterey County is payment of **Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)**, sometimes called "hotel tax." The State, through **Revenue and Taxation Code 7280**, authorized counties and cities to levy a tax on anyone occupying a room, rooms, or other living space for less than 30 days. There are exemptions for employees of foreign, federal, or California State, or city governments on official business.

Code 7280 grants the power to impose TOT to any California County Board of Supervisors or City Council. The tax is based on the amount charged per night, multiplied by the number of nights. If a hotel decides that during a large special event rooms will be rented at a premium, then the room rate and TOT will soar.

The Taxation Code does not impose a cap on the TOT rate. In general rates vary from 3.5% to 15% with the state average around 10%. Unincorporated parts of Monterey County levy a 10.5% TOT. The hotel tax in incorporated cities in Monterey County vary: Carmel, Pacific Grove, Monterey, Salinas, and King City levy 10%; Seaside, Marina, Sand City, and Soledad levy 12%. By comparison, San Francisco and Los Angeles collect 14%.

## How much TOT is collected?

In fiscal year 2015-16, Monterey County collected \$22.8 million, Monterey City collected \$20.8 million, Carmel collected \$5.9 million, Pacific Grove projected \$3.8 million, Seaside collected \$2.7 million, and Salinas projected \$2 million. For each of these jurisdictions, TOT was a large

part of their budgets. In general the three largest sources of revenue were property tax, TOT, and sales tax. TOT is dependent on levels of tourism. During economic downturns, TOT collections fall. Since 2012, collections have improved and grown steadily.

## Does TOT revenue benefit local residents?

TOT was originally meant to compensate local jurisdictions for increased public service costs incurred when serving tourists, such as: law enforcement, parking, traffic congestion, roads, bridges, sewer and water, public transit, landfill, public safety, emergency response, plus administrative costs to respond to these impacts.

**However, for most jurisdictions it is difficult to trace where TOT goes.** In

general, TOT flows into General Funds. From there the money flows to various services such as fire, police, library, parks and recreation, building and planning, administration, and capital projects.

Exceptions are Monterey County, and the cities of Carmel and Monterey where a special tax was imposed to be used for a specific purpose. In Monterey County, part of its TOT revenue is earmarked: 6% for the **Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 1.98% for the **Arts Council**, and 0.98% for the **Film Commission**. These earmarks eventually end in the General Fund.

In 2013, the County added a Road Fund as a beneficiary of the TOT formula. This Fund started at 20% of TOT revenue and is set to increase by 1% each year until it reaches a cap of 25% in June 2018 and remains separate from the General Fund.

In Carmel, the first 6% of TOT revenue goes to community, cultural and recreation activities (e.g., **Sunset Center, Forest Theater**, parks, public facilities, municipal structures, parking lots). If



revenue remains of the first 6%, TOT pays for the acquisition and improvement of parks, recreation land, and other municipal purposes. The rest of TOT (94%) is added to the General Fund for usual and current expenses. In the City of Monterey, 16% of TOT is restricted for the **Neighborhood Improvement Program**. The remainder goes to the General Fund.

### What is TID and where does it go?

Monterey County and its municipalities also collect a **Tourism Improvement District (TID) assessment** (or Hospitality Improvement District assessment). The difference between a tax and an assessment is: a tax is a charge against an individual or landowner that pays for public services and facilities that provide general benefits; an assessment is an involuntary charge levied on property to pay for public improvements because the landowner receives a specific benefit from these improvements. Assessments are not based on the value of the property, and government cannot divert it for other purposes.



While TOT is based on the **cost** of a hotel room, the TID is based on the **number of nights** the room is occupied. Monterey County TID varies from \$1 to 2 per night; in Salinas, the TID can vary from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per night. So if a hotel decides that during a large special event, rooms will be at a premium, then the hotel may impose a length of stay requirement (i.e. three night stay for a one day event), and the amount of TID will soar.

TID goes to the Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau (MCCVB) to market the County as a tourism destination, and benefit its lodging businesses. **So tourists are paying to increase the number of tourists in the future.** In FY 2015-16, MCCVB received \$4,094,439 in TID. In addition, they got an additional \$2,778,349 from County and municipality General Funds. The largest funders were the County and the City of Monterey.



**YIKES!** Did you know that one third of our League haven't renewed their **annual membership** yet? It's not too late to come back to the fold! See pages 6 and 7 for details.

LH

### Are there other tourism levies?

In the City of Monterey, a special assessment is levied to pay for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the **Monterey Conference Center**. The Center is considered important to attracting large special events as it has the largest meeting facilities on the Monterey Peninsula. The three hotels adjacent to the Center are assessed 4.25% of all rent. In the rest of the City, any full-service hotel providing food and beverages in addition to lodging are assessed 1.6% of all rent. Hotels not in the above categories are assessed 0.80% of all rent.

In the cities of Carmel and Monterey, **grant programs** support special events. Monterey budgeted \$30,000 for FY 2016-17 for local organizations and causes which benefit Monterey residents **or** for large scale events based in the City.

Carmel has similar grants administered by the **Carmel Community Activities & Cultural Commission**. Unfortunately this year, requests exceeded the budget. Carmel cut by 30% requests from local organizations (e.g., Carmel High School, Sand Castle Contest, Lions Club Easter breakfast, Art Festival), and asked them to pay the rest of the fees owed to the City. They also cut the **Concours on the Avenue** request by 95% (saying that other organizations may want to take Concours' place).

### Are TOT, TID and other levies sustainable major revenue streams for Monterey County?

There are a number of problems with counting on tourist levies for local government income:

**First, tourism levies fluctuate with the economy,** so local governments should have strong contingency



plans for periods of economic downturns.

**Second, while local ordinances exempt campsites and time-share estates, short term rentals (STRs) are not exempt.** Until Monterey County and some its municipalities enact ordinances regulating short term rentals, local governments are missing out on additional revenue.

**Third, in the name of transparency, local government should do more to inform residents the benefits they derive from tourism and special events.** Local governments could highlight projects and benefits which levies pay for in order to prevent backlash.



**Fourth, the voters have the right to approve tourism levies.** Local government may be tempted to say “let’s raise more revenue by raising the TOT.” However in 1996, California voters approved **Proposition 218** which required that increasing TOT tax be approved by a majority vote of the public. And any TOT special tax which specifically designated uses for the funds would require a 2/3rds voter approval.

**Kemay Eoyang, [Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com](mailto:Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com)**

**For more information go to:**

[www.co.monterey.ca.us/taxcollector/TOT\\_Intro.html](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/taxcollector/TOT_Intro.html), [www.ci.seaside.ca.us/207/Transient-Occupancy-Tax](http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/207/Transient-Occupancy-Tax), [www.cityofsalinas.org/file/883/download](http://www.cityofsalinas.org/file/883/download), [www.codepublishing.com/CA/Monterey/?Monterey35](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Monterey/?Monterey35), [www.cityofpacificgrove.org/about-cityfinance](http://www.cityofpacificgrove.org/about-cityfinance), [www.codepublishing.com/CA/CarmelbytheSea/?Carmel03/Carmel0332.html&?f](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/CarmelbytheSea/?Carmel03/Carmel0332.html&?f), [www.ci.marina.ca.us/Departments/Financesandcity.org/wp-content/.../ORD-16-06-Increase-the-Rate-of-TOT-from-8-to-12.pdf](http://www.ci.marina.ca.us/Departments/Financesandcity.org/wp-content/.../ORD-16-06-Increase-the-Rate-of-TOT-from-8-to-12.pdf), [https://ballotpedia.org/Soledad,\\_California,\\_Hotel\\_Tax,\\_Measure\\_F\\_\(November\\_2016\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Soledad,_California,_Hotel_Tax,_Measure_F_(November_2016)), [www.kingcity.com/City\\_Departments](http://www.kingcity.com/City_Departments)



*Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!*

**Renew Your LWVMC Membership.**

*If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.*

*Renewal letter and form gone astray?  
Uncertain of your membership due date?  
Wish to make a donation?  
Want to become a new member?*

Use the form below or contact:  
*Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director*  
[LHoivik@comcast.net](mailto:LHoivik@comcast.net) or 375-7765

**Checks payable to LWVMC**  
**Mail to LWVMC PO Box 1995**  
**Monterey, CA 93942**

**Membership Levels**

- ☐ \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- ☐ \$200 Sojourner Truth
- ☐ \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- ☐ \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- ☐ \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- ☐ \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- ☐ Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- ☐ Call to remind me of luncheons
- ☐ Scholarship requested

*Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

THANK YOU to all who renewed their memberships.

Unfortunately, more than 1/3rd have NOT renewed.

We had no renewals in the last month, so have no donations/new members to report.

*Keep this fine newsletter coming, sustain League educational activities, and strengthen our goals to promote democracy!* Call or e-mail me, or use the form on the left to renew as soon as possible.

Lisa Hoivik, [LHoivik@comcast.net](mailto:LHoivik@comcast.net)

## JANUARY 2018

### Calendar Preview

**LWVMC Board Meeting**  
Monday, 8 January, 4:30 pm

**Lunch & Learn with the League**  
Wednesday, 10 January, 12 noon

**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, 11 January, 12 noon

**Special Events Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, 18, 12:15pm

## League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

### ★ Officers

**President**  
Judi Lehman\* 622-9621

**Vice President**  
Nancy Selfridge 224-9692

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Marilyn Maxner\* 649-0335

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Monterey Peninsula**  
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**Voter Service, Salinas Valley**  
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**Webmaster**  
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★ **Directors At-Large**  
Kemay Eoyang 920-1480

Howard Fosler 649-6935  
Larry Parrish 622-7455  
[lparrish@toast.net](mailto:lparrish@toast.net)

**Luncheon Reservations**  
Lorita Fisher 375-8301

**Public Relations  
& Luncheon Logistics**  
Beverly Bean\* 484-2451

(\* = Executive Committee)

### Nominating Committee

Kalah Bumba 424-7976

Jean Donnelly 372-3599

Howard Fosler 649-6935

Dennis Mar 372-9388

Betty Matterson 373-5216

### Facebook Master

Arlene Guest 595-1297

### Voters Edge

Robin Tokmakian 655-5047

### The Voter Mailing Service

Dennis Mar 372-9388

### The Voter Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs (Off Board)

### LWVC Management

#### Training Advisor

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### LWVMC The VOTER

Published monthly with summer (June/July/August)  
& winter (December) breaks.

Send articles & updates to:

**LWVMC Voter Editor** [LWVMryCO@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCO@gmail.com)



**The VOTER**  
**League of Women Voters**  
**of Monterey County**

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**LWVMC 2017 Calendar**  
**OCTOBER**



**LWVMC Board Meeting**

**Monday, 9 October, 4:30 pm**

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
contact Judi Lehman [jlehman@redshift.com](mailto:jlehman@redshift.com)

**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 12 October, 12 noon**

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
contact George Riley  
[GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)

**Lunch & Learn with the League**

**Wednesday, 18 October, 12 noon**

**NOTE 3rd WEDNESDAY OF MONTH**  
(see complete information on page 1)  
contact Judi Lehman [jlehman@redshift.com](mailto:jlehman@redshift.com)

**Special Events Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 19 October, 12:15pm**

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
contact K. Eoyang [Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com](mailto:Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER**

**LWVMC Board Meeting**

**Monday, 13 November, 4:30 pm**

**Lunch & Learn with the League**

**Wednesday, 15 November, 12 noon**

**"Measure H<sub>2</sub>O: Pros & Cons"**

Debate on proposed Nov 2018 ballot initiative  
for public ownership Monterey Peninsula water:

Pros by **Public Water Now**,

Cons by **California American Water**

contact Bev Bean [beverlygb@gmail.com](mailto:beverlygb@gmail.com)

**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 16 November, 12 noon**

**Special Events Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, 23 November, 12:15pm**

**DECEMBER**

**WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK**

**No Lunch & Learn, Voter, Board or  
Committee Meetings**