



League of Women Voters

North County San Diego

VOTER

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Volume I No. 1
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Midsummer 2011 Calendar

- Monday, July 18 Book Group at the home
1:15 - 3:00 PM of Heather Callaghan
- Wed., July 27 Civil Discourse Group. At the home of
10 AM to Noon Mary Thompson
- Monday, Aug. 1 LWV 2011-12 Calendar Meeting,
1:00 PM Contact a board member if you
have suggestions.
- Thurs., Aug. 11 Board Meeting
9:15 AM Leucadia Wastewater Offices
- Monday, Aug. 15 Book Group at the home
1:15 - 3:00 PM of Cathy Greene
- Friday, Aug. 19 Women's Issues Group
10 AM to Noon Leucadia Wastewater Offices
- Wed., Aug. 31 Civil Discourse Group at the home
10 AM to Noon of Mary Thompson
- Sun., Sept. 25 **Save the Date**
5:30 - 7:30 PM League Kickoff
Please turn to page 3

Welcome Members by Martha Cox

Did you notice a change in the masthead of this *Voter* issue? Are you looking at a *Voter* that's new to you? No, you don't need new glasses...

On May 21, 2011, the North Coast League and the Escondido League voted to merge to form one local league: the League of Women Voters North County San Diego. Welcome to our milestone first year. With a constituent base of approximately 400,000 registered voters, the communities now served by the North County San Diego League include Del Mar north to Camp Pendleton on the coast and inland to Escondido and Valley Center. Welcome to all members and get ready for a busy year. Together, we're stronger, smarter, better – and we're going to need everyone's skills to serve our expanded area.

Though the vote to merge Leagues was the most historic of the day, it was just one of the items on the agenda. Initially, Escondido and North Coast members met separately to conduct their own business meetings, which included the merger vote.

Treasurer Martha Cox reported on the budget to date for the North Coast League, while simultaneously, sister treasurer, Arlene Meadows, was providing Escondido members with their fiscal accounting before all funds merge to become North County San Diego League assets.

After the merger vote was held, Escondido and North Coast members came together to approve the new by-laws, budget, program, and election of officers. Outgoing North Coast co-presidents, Peggy Dornish and Roni Seay, and outgoing Escondido president, Liz Gabrych, were presented with gifts of thanks and appreciation for their years of service to their respective Leagues. The meeting concluded with brief remarks by newly-elected North County President, Mary Crowley.



Annual Meeting 2011
Outgoing Presidents

Left: Peggy Dornish Right: Roni Seay, LWV NCSDC

LWV Board Members 2011-2012

Officers

Mary Crowley	President
Nancy Telford	1st Vice President
Barbara Lorenzen	2nd Vice President & Issues Groups & O'side/Vista Unit

Connie Ulrich	Secretary & Observer Chair
Martha Cox	Treasurer

Directors

Suzanne Carneiro	Webmaster & Member Communications
Peggy Crane	Membership & Public Affairs Program
Peggy Dornish	Voter Service
Cathy Greene	Education
Carol Grimes-Gartland	Events
Leita McCormick	Escondido Liaison
Arlene Meadows	Carlsbad Unit
Margie Monroy	Natural Resources
Diane Mochizuki	San Dieguito Unit
Anne Patton	VOTER Editor
Roni Seay	

Off-Board Director

Joann Johnson	Grant writing
Liz Kruidenier	Social Policy



**President's Message
from
Mary Crowley**

Thank you all for my very warm welcome at the Annual Meeting. I look forward to once again being the League President but, of course, this time it's as the first president of the newly formed League of Women Voters North County San Diego. What an honor!

As many of you who are former presidents know leading a local league can be a daunting task and doing it for an extended time is certainly above and beyond the call of duty. So please join me in a heartfelt thanks to Roni Seay and Peggy Dornish for their untiring commitment these past 5 years. I would also like to extend a very big thank you to Edie Appel who has served as chair for Membership for the last 10 years. Your contribution has been invaluable, Edie.

I am so grateful that we have such a strong and talented board but we can't forget we are a grass roots organization; we are only as strong as our members are engaged and energized. I encourage all of you to volunteer in some capacity this next year. In the coming months we will be asking for your help through email notices and Want Ads here in the VOTER. Please give these requests your serious consideration. We want to make LWVNCSD interesting, active and strong. But we need your help.

We are hard working, committed and ambitious – but, we also know how to have fun. Please mark your calendars and join us Sunday, September 25th for our Kick Off Reception. See details on the next page.

Mary

Ruth Lewis

July 9, 1920 - June 15, 2011

Ruth Lewis died peacefully at her home in Massachusetts on June 15 after a long battle with cancer. True to Ruth's indomitable spirit she "was still in full possession of her wit, humor, and grace." Ruth served many years on the LWV North Coast board, was president from 1989-1991 and a fifty-year-plus member. Ruth inspired us by tirelessly working for the betterment of the world—be it through community service, a search for social justice or a commitment to saving the environment. We lost a caring friend and fine role model. For more about Ruth's remarkable life, go to the June 26 *North County Times* online.

Welcome New Member

Maureen Guffanti - Vista



My First LWVC Convention

By Peggy Crane

I'm not a morning person but the excitement of going to my first LWVC Convention made it easy to get up early on May 12th. Suzanne Carneiro picked me up at 6:15 AM and we met Margie Monroy, Martha Cox, and Barbara Lorenzen at the train station in Oceanside. The train ride to Ventura was boisterous with lots of great snacks and conversation.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is old but well maintained. Checking into our rooms and picking up our convention packets was a breeze. By 1:00 PM I was in my first workshop, a dialogue about getting women to run for office.

The next morning, I attended the delegate briefing and first plenary session followed by luncheon in a room at the top of the hotel. What a view! The speaker, Dr. Beverly Kelly, gave a very interesting and humorous presentation about the history of California women who fought to get the vote. Next, another plenary session, demographics workshop, dinner out and a late workshop about legacy gifts. Whew!

The next day, Saturday, there were two more plenary sessions and workshops about membership. The lack of civility that is prevalent in American politics today is not present in the LWV. Several times I was overwhelmed with emotion as I watched and listened to all of the proceedings, debates, and discussions.

The time went by and I found myself saddened that Sunday had arrived so quickly. More plenary sessions, voting, presentations—my head was filled with so many thoughts and

ideas. The only way I can describe it is to call it an LWV high. The final speaker was our new president, Jennifer Waggoner. In her speech she said that Leaguers “engage, inform, discuss, and do.”

Finally, a free afternoon where I enjoyed the weather while walking the pier. A final train ride home brought this wonderful experience to an end. Well worth the time, money—and exhaustion.

LWVC Convention Action & Advocacy Agenda for 2011-2012

by Peggy Dornish

Readers will surely enjoy first-time delegate Peggy Crane's reflections on the convention experience, and I commend her article to you. Here, I write of what was accomplished by the delegates in plenary sessions.

We voted to retain all existing LWVC positions. We also voted not to undertake any new Study, but we did elect to do an Update of our Initiative and Referendum position, viewed as critical since the initiative process is being increasingly co-opted by special interests and “big money.”

Our issues for education and advocacy will be 1) State & Local Finances (including the increasingly problematic financing of public education); and 2) educating our communities on the purposes and process of Initiative and Referendum.

The slate of Officers and Directors put forward by the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously, Jennifer Waggoner from the Bay Area is our new President. Her special expertise is enhancing community relations and also growing our membership by use of social media.

LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara was present throughout, and she gave a very effective press interview explaining how the League is (as in, “how can it be?”) both non-partisan and politically active on issues—timely remarks in our highly charged and very partisan political climate.

FYI Our League (our final appearance as the North Coast League) whose delegates represented us as well as the San Diego City League had the largest number of delegates in attendance of any local League or ILO, and they were able to cover all the Workshops and most of the Caucuses. Both Margie Monroy and Suzanne Carneiro participated on Workshop panels—Suzanne for SmartVoter and Margie for the Observer corps.

— Save the Date — LWV North County's Fall Kickoff Event...

Sunday, September 25, 2011
5:30 – 7:30 PM
Dove Library
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad

5:30 – 6:20 PM
Reception in the Courtyard

6:30 – 7:30 PM
Invited Speaker - Peter F. Kaye

Mr. Kaye has seen it all as a political reporter for both print and television, covering such unforgettable events as the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas and the Watergate Hearings in Washington. Locally, he covered San Diego politics for the *San Diego Union*.

Bring your family and friends!



Introducing Phyllis Rosenbaum by Roni Seay

In this age of self-aggrandizement, it is a pleasure to associate with Phyllis Rosenbaum, a quiet, intelligent, charming, and outstanding member of League. Because Phyllis is not one to brag, it took some effort to learn more about her. She is so good at drawing out other people that I heard myself talking about myself rather than getting her to tell me about herself.

Phyllis was born in Chicago where she married and raised her son and daughter. Her husband Sheldon is a classically trained pianist—performer, teacher, accompanist. Phyllis was a high school English teacher for 23 years in Chicago. After moving to Cardiff, she has used her teaching skills in various ways from being an Osher coordinator for nine years to tutoring international students at UCSD. She teaches a class in modern and contemporary novels and facilitates an exceptionally popular intimate poetry class for Osher at UCSD. I've heard that she has a gift for getting the best from her students and her literature class is always filled to capacity.

Phyllis first joined LWV in the '70s in Illinois; she joined our LWV in 2004 and has been an active participant ever since. She observed the San Dieguito High School District, 2005-07; was a San Dieguito Unit co-chair, 2006-08; participant in the LWVUS Immigration Study and the National Popular Vote Compact Study. She is a member of the Civil Discourse Interest Group, has acted as question sorter at school district forums, and has twice served on the nominating committee. Phyllis has been a member of the Media Monitors Issues Group since its inception. Currently, Phyllis is working on the LWVUS Education Study. Her research skills are an asset to any League study. We are fortunate to have such a remarkably talented member in our League.

History of LWV in Escondido by Margaret Liles

Our “old” League has been called by many names: LWV of Escondido and Neighboring Communities, LWV San Diego North County, Central, LWV of Escondido Area--serving the communities of Escondido, Fallbrook, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Ramona, San Marcos, and Valley Center. But most of us just called it the Escondido League. By whatever name, this League, founded in 1955, contributed a great deal to the area it served. Now we're proud to be a part of the LWV North County San Diego.

Three Escondido Mayors, Lorraine Boyce, Doris Thurston, and Lori Holt Pfeiler, have been members of this League. Countless Pro/Con and candidate forums for school board, City Council, and mayoral candidates were moderated by our members. Our former Director for Health Issues Ruth Moskowitz organized biennial Palomar Pomerado Hospital Board Candidate forums. Our League co-sponsored, with the North County Times, one of the few debates in which Supervisor Bill Horn participated. Our superb Director for Natural Resources, Yolanda Fleet, organized yearly environmental forums where members and non-members heard from experts in many fields. Our late Director for Education Vivian Doering organized essay contests for high school seniors. The winners of these contests were given scholarships funded by the Elizabeth Kornhauser Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Many of you will remember our Past President Marge West. She was an inspiration and role model for all Leaguers. After her death in 2006, our League established the Marge West Memorial Fund from her bequest, donations from the community, and League members. The monies from this fund will be donated to one of Marge's favorite charities, the Friends of Wilderness Gardens. The Wilderness Gardens Preserve on Hwy. 76 near Pala, has hiking trails open to the public. This preserve is meant to be, first and foremost, a refuge for endangered native wildlife species. A plaque with a dedication to Marge's memory will be placed this summer in an area with a semicircle of benches overlooking a beautiful vista.

This Fall the new Escondido Unit led by Arlene Meadows will sponsor a water forum. This will be one of a series of events on wise water planning.

Summer Issues Group Meetings

Civil Discourse Group Wed., July 27 & August 31 10:00 AM to Noon

Join this group working to educate itself on why our civil discourse is broken and how the League can promote community-building conversations. In the year ahead, the group will work to make civil discourse an outcome, not a technique, in our communities. Please contact Mary Thompson at 760-942-2458 for details.

Education Group

The group will not have meetings during the summer, but members will participate in LWVUS study on the role of the Federal government in education. Contact Carol Grimes-Gartland at 760-729-0278 or CLGspeced@sbcglobal.net for further information.

Women's Issues Friday, August 19 10 AM to Noon

The group will meet at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office. During our meetings we discuss issues that directly affect women. We promote education and action on issues concerning women. We are very interested in raising awareness of the importance of equal representation of women in public office. Our highlight for the past year was our visit to the Women's Center at California State University San Marcos last March, 2011. We welcome your participation. For further information, please e-mail Evelina Hamilton at evelinahamilton@gmail.com or call her at 714-504-7484

Bulletin Board

Sustainability Group

We will not have set meeting times this summer, but will meet periodically to finalize our 2010 Sustainability Survey report. Look for email meeting announcements this summer. For information, contact Diane Mochizuki.

Book Group Monday, July 18 1:15 to 3:00 PM.

We will discuss *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot at Heather Callaghan's home. Discussion will be led by D'Vora Gitelson.

Book Group Monday, August 15 1:15 to 3:00

We will discuss *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese at Cathy Greene's home. Discussion will be led by Margie Monroy. Contact Anne Omsted.

FCC and Media Monitors Group

When our LWVNCSDC interest group began meeting to discuss the Federal Communications Commission the last thing we expected was our developing fascination with an enormously powerful governmental entity which flies almost totally beneath the scrutiny of the voters. Since 1934, when the FCC replaced the Radio Commission to 'oversee communications,' five commissioners (all of whom are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate) have had rapidly expanding responsibilities as exploding advances in technologies have expanded the methods of our 'communications.'

Our initial discussions revolved around the development of the powers and procedures of the FCC and

moved on through the daunting complexities of the technologies it seeks to regulate. Some of these we soon realized were too esoteric for our thorough understanding, but we had learned enough to realize the enormous importance of the decisions being made.

The LWV in the state of Connecticut did a wonderful study of the "Emerging Media and Internet Issues." The LWVUS has weighed in on one such issue with a position supporting NET NEUTRALITY (the principle which advocates no restrictions by Internet service providers or governments on consumers' access to networks that participate in the Internet). Telecom companies, if allowed to do so, could impose a tiered service that could remove competition and oblige subscribers to buy noncompetitive services. The struggle for net neutrality is by no means a settled one.

Other critical areas of FCC responsibility include the free, uncensored access to information, the fate of community access television, potential monopolistic concerns raised by consolidation of service providers (such as the recent purchase of T-Mobile by AT&T), the process of auctioning off the electromagnetic spectrum (sought by those seeking to expand the reach of their communications technologies), the long-running debate about "decency" in media.

This group welcomes you to JOIN US and we promise that you too will be amazed at the behind-the-scenes drama taking place in the fascinating FCC. See you at the Kick-off!

Health Care Interest Group

Contact Diane Mochizuki if you are interested in forming a new group.

Regional Observer Reports - June 2011

MiraCosta Community College

Observer Barbara Mendell reports that the Board voted to support Governor Brown's revised state budget proposal. MCC gets most of its revenue directly from property taxes. They estimate that 40 class sections will be cut from the summer offerings. In a panel discussion with other community college leaders, President Rodriguez said the district has used the current financial crunch to re-evaluate everything it does.

An engineering company conducted a study of district utility infrastructure. The study was done to plan for and upgrade the infrastructure of all MiraCosta facilities – the Oceanside and San Elijo campuses, as well as the Community Learning Center. A living document will be updated every time anything physical is done at any MCC facility.

Every MCC regular board meeting begins with time set aside for the public to speak on topics not on the day's formal agenda. Recently, presentations have been on the following subjects: students spoke against the dismissal of 3 part-time yoga instructors who did not have master's degrees; A number of former students, now working in the food industry, objected to the plan to discontinue the "Wines of the World" class. MCC is the only local college with a wine technology program and the class is necessary for certification.

Associate faculty members objected to the lack of fair rehiring practices. Sixty-five percent of MiraCosta classes this spring semester were taught by associate faculty. They feel it is important to give proven instructors some measure of job security. While the Board cannot comment directly on these topics at the time, they promise to look into them.

Tri-City Medical Center

Observer Jane Dunmeyer reports that there has been emphasis at TCMC on growing the business and maximizing profit in the last 6 months by establishment of an Oncology Institute; a Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Unit in the Wellness Center; an Orthopaedic and Spine Institute; a Cardiovascular Health Institute where "beating heart" bypass surgery is performed; three Healing Gardens at the hospital; North Coast Surgery Center of which TCMC owns 31%; a Chest Pain Center, the first one in San Diego County; Midwife Services through North County Health Services; a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center which is nationally certified; and the Forensics Unit, an expansion of services with the California Dept. of Corrections where inmates can get "one-stop shopping" in health care. The Joint Commission and American Heart and American Stroke Associations have recognized the Primary Stroke Center as "Gold Plus"

This year's statistics show an improved income - \$11.4 million in the black this year compared to \$7.4 million in the red last year. However, the accounting practices are disputed between the Board and the Administration. Some members of the Board and Administration have taken their grievances to the media. This and other recurrent behaviors reflect the combative nature of the Board.

These behaviors were found by the San Diego County Grand Jury, 3/2011, to be dysfunctional. One particular member was primarily at fault, but cannot be removed unless found guilty of a felony or election fraud, or if recalled by the voters. The Grand Jury made recommendations for changes to the Board, which the Board dismissed without action.

The majority of the Board has censured one Board member 8 times. A Board member who ran on a platform of special accounting knowledge was censured recently for raising accounting issues in the *North County Times*.



North County Transit District

Observer Leita McCormick reports that the North County Transit District Board is made up of officials from each of the eight cities in the district and one county supervisor. Meetings are public and the board maintains a high level of civil discourse throughout, especially during the public communication period when some of the speakers are a little less than civil in their comments to the board. Criticism and suggestions made by the public are usually effective with the NCTD staff often altering routes and schedules based on the input. During the past six months, operation costs have been under budget and ridership has exceeded monthly projections. NCTD recently received the "Grand Golden Watchdog" award from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association for bringing revenues in line with expenses, primarily as a result of outsourcing bus drivers and mechanics to a private firm and locking in a 12-month fixed fuel cost of \$2.74 a gallon.

Another first for the District is the adoption of the Solana Beach transit station by the Del Sol Lions Club. Similar to the state's Adopt-A-Highway program, civic groups that adopt a transit station and its grounds make a commitment to pick up litter and report graffiti.

Complaints about the overcrowding of the smaller buses used by riders in wheelchairs on some routes and problems with the lowering and raising of the ramps are being addressed by NCTD. Flexible service, a taxi-like service, which is offered in some remote areas, presents a financial burden to NCTD and riders alike. The District recovers only 6.5 percent of the cost to run the routes from the \$5 - \$10 fare compared to recovering 25 percent of the cost in fares from the rest of the transit system. In other words, 75% of the cost to provide public transit service is paid by the taxpayers, and the District relies heavily on receiving state funds, which presently fluctuate from \$2.9 million to \$5 million.

The NCTD Mobility Plan for the Breeze service was approved at the May 19 board meeting. It has been used to monitor and adjust bus routes, eliminating some, reinstating some, trying to provide the best service to the most riders.

Sunday service will be offered from April through October so people can take advantage of street fairs, local festivals and Padres games with special 2 for 1 fares on the Coaster during this six-month period

22nd District Agricultural Association — Del Mar Fairgrounds

Observer Nancy Dietrich reports that on April 18 the Ag District board, which governs the state-owned property, certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2008 Master Plan, which includes replacing the 50-year old exhibit halls, widening the turf track, and adding a health club, a parking facility and an electronic reader board sign. The project, at least five years away because of lack of funding, called for rooftop soccer fields and a hotel-condo. In spite of scaling back the

project by removing the hotel-condo, modifying plans to include 100-foot greenway buffer between the San Dieguito River and the new exhibit halls, and agreeing to work with the neighboring communities on the signage and designing larger parts of the master plan, Solana Beach and Del Mar blasted the project's environmental report, a more than 4,000 page document, that both said "woefully" failed to analyze effects on wetlands, traffic, noise, lighting, sewage, and city infrastructure. Del Mar and Solana Beach, the San Dieguito River Park and the Sierra Club entered a joint representation agreement with litigation against the master plan. They contend that there is no effective check and balance—if the environmental documents allow something, it can always be put back in.

In some good news for the Fair, which begins this Friday, they have removed three designated smoking areas and prohibited smoking in all beer gardens where families and children picnic during the Fair. Showing an unemployment check stub gains free admission to the fair.

The Buena Vista Lagoon Joint Powers Committee

Observer Connie Ulrich reports that this committee is comprised of two representatives, one council person and one staffer each, from Carlsbad and Oceanside. Although the purpose of these meetings is to give insight to the Council members, the Oceanside City Council member very seldom attends. Since all representatives must be present to have a quorum, the meetings are usually informational only. The Buena Vista Lagoon is California's first Ecological Reserve and is slowly becoming choked with reeds and sediment and is predicted to become a wet meadow within 50 years or less. Due to dissension between residents and

Fish and Game about how to restore the lagoon and funding concerns, there is an increasingly dim possibility of any resolution that will lead to restoring the lagoon to a clear, wide expanse of water.

The Inns at Buena Vista Creek proposed for the corner of Hwy 78 and Jefferson Street will include an office building and a parking structure along with three 5-story hotels offering different levels of amenities. Although only 10-15% of the project falls within Carlsbad, that city has voiced concerns about the proposed height of the buildings. Carlsbad limits all construction to three stories. The planners have said that although the hotels are planned to be 5-stories high, the site is low enough that the buildings will not be taller than the neighboring shopping mall.

Since 1992, the Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation (BVLF) has advocated building a boardwalk along the lagoon on the east side of Coast Hwy/Carlsbad Boulevard between Carlsbad and Oceanside. The BVLF has completed Phase I-Design. A 30% design has been completed and will be used for grant requests. The design shows an 8ft. wide boardwalk of wooden appearance with seating and alcove areas for viewing. Since the early 2000's Carlsbad has supported the idea of a boardwalk. The consultants believe that if the two cities get behind this plan, the required EIR process could be completed quickly. The Foundation is trying to convince Carlsbad to be the lead agency in pushing this project towards completion. The question is funding.

Throughout the year Vector Control monitors the mosquito population in and around the lagoon and sprays once a month during the peak breeding season of April through October.

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What's New with League on the Web?

Each month I hope to give you something new from LWVUS, LWVC or LWVNCSD to check out on the web.

The LWVUS and the LWVC websites are undergoing major updates this summer. Look for sites that are easier to navigate with more information and resources. I got a look at the California site at the Convention and I'm sure it will be more user friendly for all our members. For now, check out the LWVC Education Fund website at: <http://www.cavotes.org/>

Suzanne Carneiro,
Member Communications Director
Webmaster: www.lwvncsd.org

Join the League of Women Voters

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens of voting age. Others are welcome as Associate Members.

Dues:

- () \$60/ year (Oct.1 to Sept. 30)
- () \$30/year for 2nd member, same address.

New members joining after Feb.1 will pay one half the annual dues.

Additional levels of giving:

- () \$100/year Suffragist () \$200/year Activist
- () \$300/year Advocate () \$500/year Founders Circle

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to LWV-NCSD and mail to: LWV-NCSD, PO Box 131272, Carlsbad CA 92013

Please contact Membership Chair Peggy Crane, at peggycrane@hotmail.com for more information.