

### MARCH 2012 AT A GLANCE Women's History Month

Thurs., Mar. 8 9:15 am	Board Meeting LWD Offices
Fri., Mar. 9 10 am - 12 pm	Escondido Unit Mtg. 2245 E Valley Pkwy
Fri., Mar. 9 9:00 am	Natural Resources Tour San Vicente Dam
Mar. 11-17	Sunshine Week!
Mon., Mar. 12 11:30 am	Oceanside/Vista Unit Audubon Center
Thurs., Mar. 15 10 am - 12 pm	Carlsbad Unit Mtg. LWD Offices
<b>Fri., Mar. 16 2:00-4:00 pm</b>	<b>League Celebration Dove Library, Carlsbad</b>
Sat., Mar. 17 10 am-12 pm	Civil Discourse San Marcos Library
Mon., Mar. 19 1:15-3:00 pm	Book Group Home of A. Patton
Wed., Mar. 21 1:30-3:00 pm	San Dieguito Unit Belmont Village
Fri., Mar. 23 1:30-3:30 pm	Education Group Home of Carol Grimes-Gartland

**Meetings are open to the public and  
guests are always welcome.**

#### Visit us on the web:

Every effort is made to provide you with accurate calendar information here, but emergencies sometimes occur which necessitate a change in meeting time or location. Please **check the website for the latest updates and maps to meetings at:**

[www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)

#### Or contact us by phone or mail:

760-736-1608  
PO Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272

## Sunshine Week Commemorates Citizens' Right to Know

by Tina Schmidt, Communications Outreach

Citizens have a right and responsibility to demand government transparency and accountability, and "Sunshine Week" reminds us to do just that. It was Abraham Lincoln who said our government is "of the people, by the people, for the people" in his Gettysburg Address. Federal law guarantees we have this right.

The Freedom of Information Act (1966), a federal law signed by Lyndon B. Johnson, defined what information the public has a right to know and how the public has a right to access the public records. Open meetings became the next citizen rights enacted into federal law. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972) and the Sunshine Act (1976) focused on the right of access to public meetings.

~Sunshine article continued on page 4

## March Event Shines Light... and Celebrates Women!

by Leita McCormick, Director of Events

Don't miss this great multi-celebration event. Join us on **Friday, March 16**, at the **Carlsbad Dove Library**, from **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** as we observe Women's History Month, Sunshine Week and our own League's 50th Anniversary. The Women's Issues group is our host, and among the features of our event, are a display by the Women's Museum of California, featuring Women's History Month, as well as other display tables highlighting information about Sunshine Week and our League. Our goal is to call attention to these three celebrations and to increase community awareness of our League achievements. **The event is open to the public** where members, their family, friends and neighbors are welcome to join in the fun. Light refreshments will be served. Invitations and flyers are being distributed to local organizations and city officials. Sunshine Week is the annual recognition of laws enacted to provide citizens with the guarantee of transparency of government actions and decisions by our elected officials. We look forward to seeing you there. If you need more information or directions to the Dove Library, please call 760-736-1608.

## LWVNCSD Officers/Directors 2011-12

### Officers

Mary Crowley	President
Nancy Telford	1st Vice-President, Interim Membership Director
Barbara Lorenzen	2nd Vice-President, Action Chair, Interest Groups, Oceanside/Vista Liaison
Connie Ulrich	Secretary, Observer Chair
Martha Cox	Treasurer, VOTER Editor

### Directors

Suzanne Carneiro	Webmaster & Member Communications
Peggy Dornish	Program
Cathy Greene	Voter Services
Carol Grimes-Gartland	Education
Leita McCormick	Events
Arlene Meadows	Escondido Unit Liaison
Diane Mochizuki	Natural Resources
Margie Monroy	Carlsbad Unit Chair
Anne Patton	San Dieguito Unit Chair

### Off-Board Directors

Joann Johnson	Grant Writing
Liz Kruidenier	Social Policy

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



## *Thank You!* **VOTER Contributors**

Many thanks to the following members who wrote the articles, took the photos, proofread the final product, and assisted with production and distribution this month.

Edie Appel • Mary Crowley  
Peg Dyer • Barbara Lorenzen • Gloria Marsh  
Leita McCormick • Diane Mochizuki  
Margie Monroy • Anne Omsted • Tina Schmidt  
Becky Scigliompaglia • Nancy Telford  
Mary Thompson • Connie Ulrich  
and our dedicated Observer Corps!

## President's Message

by Mary Crowley, President



Just as I was sitting down to write my column, this poem, written by a leaguer years ago, was emailed to me. It was just too coincidental and too timely not to share.

### **WHY DON'T I JUST QUIT?**

*It seems to me this year  
I'm busier than before,  
I'm tempted to resign from the League  
Instead I take on more!*

*Now why is that? I ask myself,  
For surely that's a reason,  
I'll have more time, I tell myself,  
Right after the rush season.*

*Besides, League members are my good friends,  
I couldn't let them down.  
These surface reasons, I advance -  
The real one's further down.*

*I think the answer lies somewhere  
Deep within myself.  
I want to see my talents used,  
Not rusted on the shelf.*

*I want America to be  
A better place to live.  
Just talking won't improve it,  
We also have to give.*

*I want to find myself among the workers,  
Not the floaters,  
And that is why I am neck-deep  
In the League of Women Voters.*

I hope you all will be able to participate in this month's unit meetings. We will be discussing county, local league and unit positions for the coming year. This planning is the cornerstone for all league activities. So, let your voices be heard – please come.

# February Flew By ... For Leaguers in Action!

## Southern Regional Training Workshop February 4, 2012

Report by Margie Monroy, Carlsbad Unit Chair

Seven of our local League members attended the Southern Regional Training Workshop on February 4 in Laguna Beach.

The first workshop entitled “*The Rules Have Changed: The 2012 Elections*” covered the changes that will go into effect in the June 2012 primary. The presidential primary will be conducted essentially as it has been in the past. After that everything changes. For all state offices the ballot will be same for everyone and candidates have the option of listing their party preference. The top-two vote getters, regardless of party, move on to the general election. Add to this the recent redistricting, which may change polling places, not to mention that the voter may be in a different legislative district, and you will see that our work is cut out for us in informing the public. Pity the poor poll workers.

The second workshop, titled “*Water: Which Way Do We Swim?*” was quite illuminating. Though the presenter focused on the Orange County Water District, she outlined the problems which face all California residents, and she spoke to the interconnectedness of the multi-state Western region’s water resources.

The lunch break allowed participants to intermingle for table topic discussions, which included fund raising, networking for local Leagues and Voter Service Chairs, collaboration with other organizations and activating new members.

Afternoon workshops were: the “California State Budget - It’s Broken”, followed by the “Observer Corps - a winner for the Public and for League.”

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## Lecture by Dr. Hillgarth Fills the Encinitas Library’s Community Room

by Anne Omsted, *Natural Resources*

On a cold and rainy Feb. 15th, Dr. Nigella Hillgarth, Exec. Director of the Stephen Birch Aquarium, spoke eloquently to the audience about the importance of the ocean.

Her main theme was “*Without the oceans our planet would not be habitable!*” Dr. Hillgarth opened her talk by informing us that 50% of our oxygen comes from the ocean, 97% of the water in our world is in the oceans, and recent changes are impacting the oceans, with the

potential to seriously affect future lives. Her talk was structured to detail the following major changes that are occurring now:

- ▶ Climate change • oceans are warming, impacting all life in the ocean.
- ▶ Acidification • with excessive carbon dioxide absorption, the oceans are becoming more acidic, which makes it difficult for animals to make bones, shells, and coral.
- ▶ Habitat destruction • happening everywhere, with nets dragging the ocean floor, estuaries being destroyed, coral reef bleaching.
- ▶ Over fishing • 90% of large fish are gone.
- ▶ Pollution • plastics in the ocean, and chemicals from urban and agricultural runoff are pouring into the oceans from all coastal nations.

Dr. Hillgarth shared examples of the kind of research being done by Scripps scientists, providing hope that, with proper management, many of the past pollution problems can be corrected naturally over time if further damage is mitigated, through restriction of plastic dumping into the oceans of the world, by fishing more sustainably, and by encouraging local people to preserve their ocean environment. *This event was jointly sponsored with the Friends of the Encinitas Library.*

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## LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2012

compiled by Margie Monroy

The LWVUS Board established the following as Legislative Priorities for 2012:

- Voter Protection
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Environmental Defense, and
- Health Care Defense.

In addition, these items were included on the LWVUS Watch List for 2012:

- Fair Taxation
- CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), and
- UN Support and Immigration.

Items on the Watch List will be acted upon if the opportunity arises for League action, if it does not interfere with action on an LWVUS Priority and if it appears the LWVUS can make an impact.

*Plan Ahead...  
Save These Dates!*

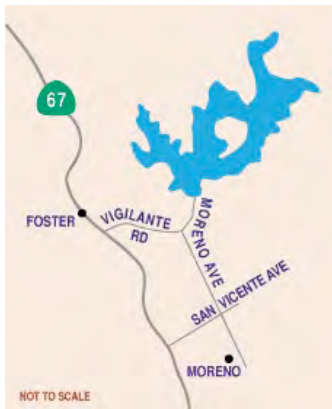
- April 12-13 MiraCosta College  
Public Issues Symposium
- May 16 ILO Convention
- May 19-20 LWVC Council •  
*Sacramento, CA*
- June 2\* LWVNCSD Annual Mtg.  
El Camino Country Club
- June 8-12 LWVUS Convention •  
*Washington, DC*

*\*Please Note: This is a date change from a previous master calendar listing.*

## Natural Resources Field Trip to San Vicente Dam • Mar. 9th • 9am - 12pm

*by Diane Mochizuki/Anne Omsted*

Join us for a San Diego County Water Authority-led tour of the San Vicente Dam Raise Project that began in 2009. The project is part of the \$1 billion Emergency Storage Project, which is creating new emergency water storage and pipeline connections to deliver water throughout the region, which will go into effect if the regular water supply is ever disrupted.



San Vicente Reservoir is a deep, steep-sided impounding reservoir on San Vicente Creek, approximately 25 miles northeast of San Diego. It currently has a depth of 190 feet when full. Water levels are monitored weekly.

<<http://www.sandiego.gov/>

[water/recreation/levels.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/levels.shtml)>

The tour is open to all members, but there is a limit of 15 participants. *Contact Anne Omsted if you'd like to join the tour.* We will carpool from the LaCosta Park and Ride at 9:00am.

## Sunshine Week

*continued from page 1*

The fifty states passed similar laws declaring that all records and meetings are open unless certain specified exemptions apply. These federal and state laws are frequently called 'sunshine' acts.

California enacted its own *sunshine* legislation, the Brown Act, as early as 1953, in response to mounting public concerns over informal and undisclosed meetings held by local elected officials. The Brown Act applies not only to city/county governmental meetings, deliberations, and records, but also to meetings and records of agencies, boards, and commissions. Access to public meetings, through timely notification of meeting agendas and availability of supporting documentation, allows citizens the opportunity and the responsibility to hold their government accountable at any level.

With the development of the internet, citizens now have greater access to information. A quicker response from government officials is available with the increased use of e-mail. However, a setback of releasing federal information occurred after the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01, due to the possibility of further threats to national security on the United States. So, in this post 9/11 age, challenges to the right to know are even greater. Limiting public access to information has increased in the name of homeland security.

Sunshine Week reminds us to be hopeful that our government administration, Congress and our state and local government entities will work alongside citizens to create a democracy that is more open and accessible to all. We must continue to insist on our right to know.

### **Available Resources:**

**Brown Act** • [http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003\\_Main\\_BrownAct.pdf](http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003_Main_BrownAct.pdf)

**Cal Access** • <http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/>

## Observer Reports

compiled by Margie Monroy, Carlsbad Unit Chair

*Observers prepare **semi-annual** reports which document the activity of their agencies for the months of January to June and July to December. The reports provided here, as well as those in the February 2012 issue, were compiled in December 2011 condensing the actions of the previous six months. Every effort is made to present observer reports accurately, however, it is possible that subsequent actions have been taken by some agencies since these reports were rendered.*

**Tri-City Medical Center Board** observer, **Jane Dunmeyer**, reports that the daVinci robotic surgical system is now in full operation, earning praise from surgeons, administrators, and patients. There are thirty new telemetry rooms and the Orthopedic & Spine Institute is open.

The July 2010 - June 2011 fiscal year ended with a profit of \$15 million. TCMC's improved financial situation is due to renegotiation of loans and lowering of loan fees and supply contracts, outsourcing some services, innovation and updating of collection of patient service fees, staff changes including use/non-use of registry, increasing births at the Center through new practice relationships, and investing in new services and partnerships.

There is much controversy and conflict noted in the media between TCMC's Board and the community, as well as within the Board itself. There are continuing lawsuits concerning the dismissals of executives from the previous CEO's administration of two years ago. Legal fees in July, 2011 had reached more than \$120K dealing with one particular board member's lawsuits and countersuits. Other issues of note relate to the suspension of the professional license of another board member and a board member whose Ph.D. has been challenged because it was awarded by a facility whose location, history, and accreditation are unclear. Another board member was sanctioned by the Board for breaking confidentiality of the Board's closed sessions. The Board's Strategic Planning meeting in September morphed into two all day "evaluation sessions of the CEO." The participants included the CEO, legal counsel, Board members, executive heads of departments, staff members, and physicians but no members of the public were allowed.

To e-mail board members, go to [www.tricitymed.org](http://www.tricitymed.org). Contact for members with no e-mail access may be made through the Board's administrative assistant at 760-940-3348.

**Oceanside School District Board of Trustees** Observer, **Marileen Johnson**, reports that the district has 23 sites serving 19,500 students (a loss of 1,500 students since 2005), and 2,560 employees.

The Early Start Calendar Committee was put in place in early fall to consider adoption of a school calendar ending the first semester prior to the winter break. This proposal is not board-driven, but rather proposed by parents and staff on both sides of the issue. There have been three community forums with more planned. As soon as a recommendation is finalized and approved by the board, the calendar will become effective for the 2013-14 school year. The primary concern is long summer and winter breaks with loss of instructional time.

The Oceanside District has approved three charter schools over the years. A group of parents is proposing another charter school. The law requires districts to provide and furnish classroom space and prove they have more than 80 students in the district who are interested in attending.

The Board may employ a visual and performing arts specialist to assist in planning and conducting a design competition for the Oceanside High School five hundred seat Performing Arts Building, with a budget of \$17 million, to be completed by early 2015. The Proposition H Bond Measure approved by voters in 2008 will provide the funds.

### Want to Know More About Your City or Your Local School District?

As an observer, you are the "eyes and ears" of  
League in your community.

You'll soon be the **star** of your neighborhood • the  
"go to" person for accurate city news and events.

Contact Connie Ulrich, Observer Chair,  
for more information.



# March Bulletin Board

Unit Meetings & Events



Interest Groups

## Unit Meetings in March...

will all focus on the same topic: local and county Program Planning. We need your input about issues important to our city and area. For those of you unfamiliar with County League or its program, here is a chance to learn what they are currently working on and to suggest issues for education or advocacy. For example, why do the supervisors always meet in San Diego, when they represent the whole county?

### Carlsbad Unit Mtg.

**Thursday, March 15 • 10 am - 12 pm**

The Carlsbad Unit will meet at the Leucadia Wastewater District Offices on Thursday, March 15 at 10:00 am. Call Margie Monroy at 760-729-7242 for further information.

### Escondido Unit Mtg.

**Friday, March 9 • 10 am - 12 pm**

The Escondido Unit will meet at the Escondido East Valley Community Center, 2245 East Valley Parkway, Escondido. Please call Arlene Meadows at 760-751-2049 for further information.

### Oceanside/Vista Unit Mtg.

**Monday, March 12 • 11:30 am**

The Oceanside/Vista Unit will meet at the Audubon Center, 2202 Pacific Coast Hwy. (south of West Vista Way and north side of Buena Vista Lagoon) at 11:30 am. Bring finger food to share.

### San Dieguito Unit Mtg.

**Wednesday, March 21 • 1:30 pm**

The San Dieguito Unit will meet at Belmont Village, 3535 Manchester Dr., Cardiff at 1:30 pm. *Please note the special parking instructions for this venue on the website at: <http://www.lwvncsd.org/Calendar.html>*

### Book Group

**Monday, March 19 • 1:15 - 3 pm**

This month's book for discussion is "*Cleopatra*" by Stacy Schiff. The meeting will be held at the home of Anne Patton. Please call 858-759-2715 to RSVP.

### Civil Discourse Group

**Saturday, March 17 • 10 am - 12 pm**

The meeting will be held at the San Marcos County Library Branch, 2 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. We will continue to focus on our upcoming *Patriocracy* events. Call Mary Thompson at 760-942-2458 for more information.

### Education Group

**Friday, March 23 • 1:30 - 3:30 pm**

The Education Group will meet at the home of Carol Grimes-Gartland. This will be a continuing discussion of state and local financing of our public schools, and the challenges presented by the state budget cuts. For more information, contact Carol at 760-729-0278. We invite you to join us.

### Health Care

If you are interested in this group, please contact Barbara Lorenzen at 760-305-7842 for further information.

### Media Monitors

If you are interested in this group, please contact Jackie Stone at 760-687-3141 for information.

### Natural Resources Field Trip

**Friday, March 9 • 9:00 am**

The Natural Resources group will take a field trip to the San Vicente Dam on Friday, March 9th. The tour of the Dam Raise Project will be led by the San Diego County Water Authority. This is part of the Emergency Storage Project, which will go into effect if the regular water supply is ever disrupted. The tour is open to any member but space is limited to 15. Contact Anne Omsted at 760-753-6970 to reserve your spot.

### Women's Issues Special Event

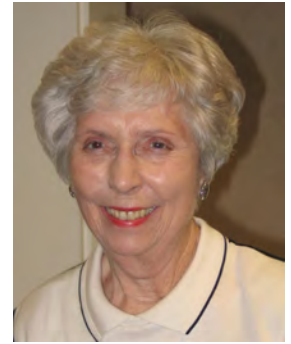
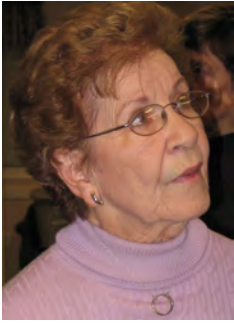
**Friday, March 16 • 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

This is a celebration of our League's 50th anniversary, Sunshine Week, and Women's History Month. See the article on page 1 for more details.

*Due to this special event, there will not be a regular meeting in March.* Call Evelina Hamilton at 760-940-8253 for information.

Explore Your  
Interests!

**Members • The Power of One • Making a Difference!**



*Leaguers actively engaged...*

*at Program Planning and Presentations.*



**LWV North County San Diego  
Membership Application**  
~ Share this with a friend! ~

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to LWVNCSD and mail to:

**LWVNCSD • Attn: Membership  
PO Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272**

or join online at:

[http://www.lwvncsd.org/join\\_form.html](http://www.lwvncsd.org/join_form.html)

**Dues:**

- \$60/year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30)
- \$30/year for 2nd member, same address
- New members joining after Feb. 1st will pay 1/2 annual dues.

**Additional levels of giving (thank you!):**

- \$100/year • Suffragist
  - \$200/year • Activist
  - \$300/year • Advocate
  - \$500/year • Founders Circle
- New Member     Renewal  
 Contributing Member - unable to be active at this time (full membership/benefits).  
 Why I'm joining

I am interested in the following (please ✓ interests):

- Provide organizational support
- Participate in Voter Service
- Participate in Interest Groups:
  - ♦ Book Group
  - ♦ Civil Discourse
  - ♦ Education
  - ♦ Natural Resources
  - ♦ Women's Issues

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

*North County San Diego  
Post Office Box 131272  
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272*

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**March 2012**

Volume II, No. 3

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The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

**Civility Matters**

**“It is not what a lawyer tells me I *may* do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I *ought* to do.”**

~Edmund Burke,  
*Second Speech on Conciliation, 1775*

Have you checked North County League’s website this week?

**Stay current, stay active, stay informed!**

 [www.lwvncsd.org](http://www.lwvncsd.org)

LWV California  
[www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)

LWV United States  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)