



AUG./SEPT. 2012 AT A GLANCE

Wed, Aug 1 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse San Marcos Library
Fri, Aug 10 10 am - 3 pm	Board Retreat Barbara Lorenzen's
Tues, Aug 14 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse San Marcos Library
Sat, Aug 25 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse San Marcos Library
Tues, Aug 28 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse San Marcos Library
Thurs, Sept 6 7 pm	Democracy in Balance? MiraCosta College, San Elijo Campus, Rm 204
Fri, Sept 7 5:30 - 6:45 pm 7 pm	LWVNCSD Fall Kickoff League Reception Democracy in Balance? MiraCosta College, Oceanside Campus Concert Hall
Mon, Sept 17 1:15 - 3:00 pm	Book Group Home of N. Telford

Stay tuned for the
expanded schedule of
meetings and events
in next month's edition.

Prepare for a busy fall!

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

Visit us on the web: www.lwvncsd.org

Or contact us by phone or mail:

760-736-1608

PO Box 131272, Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272

SD Registrar of Voters Addresses North County League at Annual Meeting

by Mary Thompson

Voting had begun for the June 5th California Primary as San Diego County Registrar of Voters, Deborah Seiler, joined the League of Women Voters' annual meeting on June 2 at the El Camino Country Club. Member Joyce Joseph practically left the engine running as she transported and introduced Ms. Seiler, describing the Registrar's 30-plus year career, including four years as commissioner of the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Ms. Seiler thanked the League for its commitment to serving voters. Coming from Solano County in 2007 (one sixth the size of San Diego County in population), Ms. Seiler reported that San Diego County has the largest percentage of voter turnout in the state. She manages a budget of \$29 million and serves 1.5 million registered voters through a network of over 1,600 precincts, 66 collection sites, and 150 scanners. Nearly half the voters vote by mail, a number Ms. Seiler aims to increase.

She commented on the challenges facing voters: new redistricted boundaries and a long, potentially confusing ballot due to the "top two primary." Despite headlines about voter ID challenges and voter fraud, she says actual fraud is minimal, although she did receive a few chuckles about the difficulty of clearing the deceased from voter rolls. She spoke of efforts to capture each voter's intent on each ballot, and emphasized her mission was that people have confidence in the voting process. Ms. Seiler's biggest nightmare is her ability to react to misinformation, which can go "viral" via the Internet. With an eye on her watch, a smile and a wave, Ms. Seiler headed back to Ruffin Road to oversee the weekend voting.

Ed. Note: Ms. Seiler was prescient in her comments. Just after the polls closed on June 5th, an offshore cyber attempt to hack into the San Diego County Registrar of Voters' website shut down the site for two hours. The site's firewall remained intact and there was no damage or compromise of the Registrar's data.

LWVNCSD Officers/Directors 2012-13

Officers

Mary Crowley	President
Nancy Telford	1st Vice-President, Interim Membership Director
Barbara Lorenzen	2nd Vice-President, Action Chair, Interest Groups
Margaret Liles	Secretary
Arlene Meadows	Treasurer

Directors

Suzanne Carneiro	Webmaster
Martha Cox	VOTER Editor
Cathy Greene	Voter Services
Carol Grimes-Gartland	Education
Margie Monroy	Member Communications
Connie Ulrich	Observer Chair

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Liz Gabrych • Amber Starbuck
Jackie Stone • Virginia Webb

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Carol Grimes-Gartland	Carlsbad Unit Chair
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Kathie Rosvall	Oceanside/Vista Chair
Anne Patton	San Dieguito Unit Chair

Off-Board Directors

Joann Johnson	Grant Writing
Liz Kruidenier	Social Policy
Mary Thompson	Civil Discourse

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.

Mary Crowley • Peg Dyer • Debbie Hanna
Barbara Lorenzen • Gloria Marsh • Margie Monroy
Anne Omsted • Becky Sciglimpaglia
Nancy & Robert Telford
Mary Thompson • Connie Ulrich

President's Message

by Mary Crowley, President



I remember writing my President's Message last year and kidding that the song "Summertime and the Living is Easy" was not the League theme song for the summer of 2011. Now, here we are in the summer of 2012 and that still holds true. Why? We have what

some might call a perfect storm: preparations for the major event on September 7th; scheduling of candidate forums and pros and cons for September and October and our annual membership renewal that occurs in September. Your enthusiastic board, however, prefers to call this an exciting and challenging time for our League and I hope you all agree.

As we get busier and busier we have some exciting new tools to get the word out to you. First and foremost we now have, thanks to Suzanne, a new member's-only website. We will be sending an email blast to everyone with instructions on accessing it. This is a work in progress and I know Suzanne would love to hear any suggestions about what should be on the site.

Right now on the site we have all the information you need to RSVP for the private reception preceding the community showing of *Patriocracy* on September 7th (see the flier on p. 5). We're very excited that we could combine this event with League's traditional kickoff so, Members, please plan to attend and as always your family and/or friends are welcome to join you. For those of you who prefer not to RSVP online, you can always let us know by phoning. The League number is 760-736-1608.

Also on the members' website is a Google Calendar that our Voter Service Director, Cathy Greene, is using to schedule all of our voter service activities for the coming months. Be sure to check it out so you can let Cathy know when you might be available to help.

So, see you in September!

A yellow rectangular graphic with a white border. It contains text welcoming new and returning members. The text is arranged in two columns. The left column has a yellow box with the text "Welcome New Members!". The right column lists names: Margie Anderson, Jennifer Byrne-Morgan, and Sue Ellen Tankersley. Below a horizontal line, the names Jim & Sharlene Hamilton, Alice Jacobson, and Carol Marks are listed. To the right of these names is another yellow box with the text "Welcome Back!".

Welcome
New Members!

Margie Anderson
Jennifer Byrne-Morgan
Sue Ellen Tankersley

Jim & Sharlene Hamilton
Alice Jacobson
Carol Marks

Welcome
Back!

LWV Biennial Convention 2012 - Washington, DC

The Telfords Go To Washington: Convention Reflections

by delegates Robert & Nancy Telford

We attended the national convention from June 8-12, 2012 and then spent an extra five days doing an in-depth tour of our Capitol. The days flew by and we enjoyed the experience immensely. Convention business was conducted with the professionalism we all know is an ingrained component of the League. We were impressed to see that both genders were well represented as delegates. The convention speakers were excellent. We especially enjoyed addresses by Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, as well as Mickey Edwards, former U.S. Congressman (R-OK) and now Director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership. Though the schedule was often overlapping, our San Diego County delegates attended as many caucus sessions as possible, so that we could return home to share the enthusiasm and intense commitment of members who want to make a difference.



Each day the convention started early and ended late, and we were glad for the social opportunities to meet other Leaguers. Two evenings we enjoyed time with other League members sharing meals at some of Washington's fine dining establishments; one evening the "Capitol Steps" political satire group entertained everyone; another evening we viewed five-time Emmy® Winner Brian Malone's documentary film "Patriocracy." The last evening we attended the convention banquet, and the illuminating and humorous keynote address was given by political pollster John Zogby.

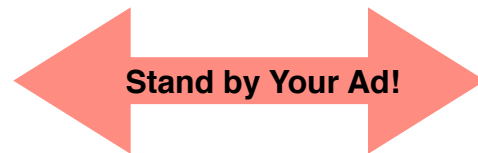
The convention was an educational, enjoyable and entertaining experience. We were grateful to attend and were so impressed with the commitment and camaraderie of the officers and delegates. We were especially pleased to know that Mickey Edwards and Brian and Cindy Malone committed to joining us for our Civil Discourse event, which we are co-sponsoring with MiraCosta College on September 6-7, 2012.

Convention Action and Information:

The 2010 Supreme Court decision on Citizens United vs. FEC (Federal Election Commission) commanded focused attention and generated great discussion at the convention. The Concord-Carlisle-Amerherst-Sudbury, MA Leagues had done in-depth study of this issue and presented well-researched handouts to an standing-room-only crowd at their caucus. As a result, this compromise motion was made and passed by the delegates:

Motion: We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters. **Approved.**

Motion: Adoption of per member payment (PMP) rate of \$31.00 for the fiscal biennium 2012-2014. **Approved.**



"Did I just hear that?" "Did I just read that?" If it seems implausible, it probably is, and we've long known to go to factcheck.org for the real story. During election season, when hyperbole turns to deception and fraudulent claims, you might want to visit the sister site: flackcheck.org "for the lighter side of spin" as the website states.

One of the convention keynote speakers was Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, who introduced the Center's latest effort: "Stand by Your Ad!" Members of the public can register at www.flackcheck.org to log complaints against stations that air erroneous, fraudulent or deceptive third-party ads and ask that the ads be pulled. *Why is this a problem?* Third party ads represent a seller's market for stations, who can charge excessive rates to eager PACs willing to bear any price for air time. Although voters indicate that they hate negative ads, studies have found them to be effective in influencing the vote. Voters, be vigilant.

In Memoriam - League Loses Two Long-Time Leaders

Thelma Hayes, a 61-year member of the Carlsbad Unit, passed away on May 30, 2012 at the age of 94. Born in LaPorte, Indiana, in 1918, she graduated in 1967 from Northwestern University with a degree in Political Science. She learned her lessons well, becoming a master at dealing with government at all levels.

Thelma's email user name was "Citizen Hayes," an apt description. Whether she was fighting to educate the public on the plight of the mentally ill or advocating for sidewalks, especially around schools, she understood that it is not enough to complain. It is necessary to offer solutions.

She founded the North County Chapter of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill and organized a citizens' committee that was instrumental in adding a Pedestrian Safety component to the Traffic Element of the Carlsbad General Plan. And, sidewalks were built! A brilliant mind, coupled with tenacity, gained her the respect of the civic officials with whom she worked.

Thelma attended League meetings faithfully and shared her opinions and knowledge with other members. In 2001, she was honored by League at Annual Meeting for her 50 years of membership.

Well Done, Citizen Hayes.

by Margie Monroy

As the President of the League of Women Voters, I'm given the sad but proud honor to share with you how much **Edie Appel** meant to all of us. When I heard the sad news, I tried to compile a list of members I knew would want to know but, you know what, I gave up very shortly because I quickly figured out that I needed to let every member know for, in one way or another, Edie touched all our lives. As membership chair for ten years, some of us remember the initial phone call, some remember the League coffees, others the "Intro to League" – always held at Edie's house with Edie, the ever gracious hostess


For years every time I met a new member, I would ask why they joined League. Without exception they would say something like "a really nice lady with a lovely voice called me." We have a lot of really nice ladies in League, but once they would say "...with the lovely voice," I always knew they were referring to Edie. Edie was always there – willing to help in any way she could.

As for me personally, the televised Chargers' games on Sunday and the Academy Awards will never, ever be the same.

Eulogy by Mary Crowley, given at Edie's memorial service at Quail Gardens in Encinitas, July 5, 2012

An Exciting Fall is Ahead! Engage • Participate • Make a Difference!

Democracy in the Balance? Getting Beyond the Shouting

The League of Women Voters North County San Diego and Mira Costa College are co-sponsoring a 2-day event on September 6-7, 2012. See flyer details here. 

For Leaguers, **we want you to be a part of the exciting event** and you have several opportunities to do so. **The Friday evening Sept. 7th event is also our Fall Kick-off**, which includes a **private reception from 5:30-6:45 pm** prior to the community event. But, we need to know that you're coming, so thanks for promptly sending in your RSVP when you receive the e-mail blast for members with instructions on how to RSVP online. It will be coming your way soon. Or, if you'd prefer, RSVP by phone at 760-736-1608.

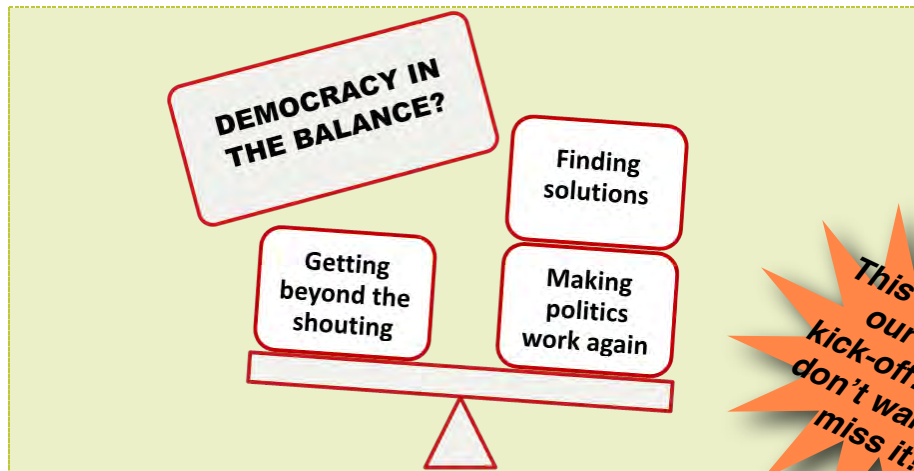
Do you have an hour or two to help on either Thursday Sept. 6th or Friday Sept. 7th?

Contact: Mary Thompson at thompsmg@roadrunner.com or Martha Cox at marthacox@roadrunner.com

And, What About Moderator and "Pros and Cons" Training?

Even if you missed the Voter Service 101 meeting on June 19, it is not too late to sign up to learn about moderating candidate forums and presenting Pros and Cons for the upcoming November general election. There will be several seasoned moderators and Pros and Cons presenters to share experiences and offer advice on how to conduct a forum and make presentations in a fair, civil, and League-like manner. The trainings will take place on dates yet to be determined in early August. If you are interested in attending a training session, call or email Anne Omsted at 760-753-6970, daomstead@cox.net or Margie Monroy at 760-729-7242, monroymario@att.net or Cathy Greene at csgreene49@aol.com. Come and hear where the action and the fun are at election time and how you can take part.

FILM SCREENING & CONVERSATION



This is also our fall kick-off! You don't want to miss it!

Thursday, Sept 6
7:00 pm

Friday, Sept 7
7:00 pm

Mira Costa College
Room 204 • San Elijo Campus

Mira Costa College
Concert Hall • Oceanside Campus



Political dysfunction and polarization have brought American politics to historical lows. As we enter the upcoming election year the poisonous rhetoric will reach an all-time high.

The community is invited to a screening of Patriocracy, a new documentary that drills down to the roots of political polarization and offers sound solutions to move beyond.

Discussion following the film with Former Congressman Mickey Edwards (R-OK) featured in the film and filmmakers Brian and Cindy Malone.

The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, visit www.miracosta.edu and www.lwvncsd.org

Find out more about the film at www.patriocracymovie.com



Co-sponsored by MiraCosta College and the League of Women Voters North County San Diego



Aug/Sept Bulletin Board

Unit Meetings & Events



Interest Groups

Unit Meetings will resume in September. Stay tuned for the complete schedule in next month's issue.

Book Group

No Meeting in August

Monday, Sept. 17 • 1:15 - 3 pm

Margie Monroy will lead the discussion of *"The Greater Journey"* by David McCullough at the home of Nancy Telford. Please call 760-753-3487 to RSVP.



Civil Discourse Group

Planning Sessions:

Wednesday, Aug 1 • 10 - 11:30 am

Tuesday, Aug 14 • 10 - 11:30 am

Tuesday, Aug 28 • 10 - 11:30 am

Monthly Meeting:

Saturday, Aug. 25 • 10 am - 11:30 am

(will possibly be cancelled - watch for e-mail)

All planning sessions will be held at the San Marcos County Library Branch, 2 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. These will be planning meetings for the upcoming *Patriocracy* events on Sept. 6 and 7. Please call Mary Thompson (760-942-2458) for more information.

LWV Observers - On the Front Line of Democracy!

Thank you to all who attended the recent Observer Reports Luncheons. A special thanks to our hostesses: Nancy Hand (San Dieguito Unit), MaryBeth Tompane (Carlsbad Unit) and Kathie Rosvall (Oceanside/Vista Unit) for providing lovely and welcoming venues for each Unit luncheon. As the attendees can attest, the Observer Reports luncheons were a success, the food delicious and the discussions lively.

Why weren't you there? We missed you, and you missed an opportunity to reconnect with unit members in a relaxed environment and to learn what's going on in your community. You missed the Observer reports on the local governmental committees. The Observers answered a variety of questions about their agencies and discussed how the issues facing those agencies affect the local communities. They also encouraged members to attend the public meetings of the agencies under discussion.

Who are those Observers? They are you and I, LWVNCSD members who volunteer their time to attend public governmental meetings to learn more about what their local government is doing. It's been noted that the Observer program benefits the League and the community by:

- Creating a civically engaged and empowered cadre of civic watchdogs
- Connecting league members with local government
- Promoting open, transparent and accountable government
- Connecting elected/appointed officials with their constituents
- Educating their local league about issues impacting their communities
- Identifying areas where action or improvement is needed

The Observer program is unique to LWV and is a program of which each Leaguer can be proud. However, we need more Observers - more eyes and ears in our community. Any league member can be an Observer. It isn't necessary to be an expert on the issues facing an agency or committee. For many it was curiosity, rather than expertise that led them to become an Observer. They found the right committee and got involved.

To read the current Observer reports - go to the LWVNCSD members only website (instructions coming). If you have questions about the information in the reports, please ask. And plan to come to the next luncheon, to meet the Observers and take part in the discussion.

Or better yet—become an Observer!

Connie Ulrich
LWVNCSD Observer Chair

Members • The Power of One • Making a Difference!

Honoring Liz Kruidenier - ILO Mental Health League Leader



Left to Right: LWVNCSD President Mary Crowley, Honoree Liz Kruidenier, ILO President Roni Seay

Liz has lived in San Diego County for 21 years, 16 of those years in La Costa which meant she is a member of the North County League. How do you describe Liz – leader, advocate, volunteer, friend, someone whose dedication and passion has made her an effective and outstanding member of the League of Women Voters. In my first term of office as president of the North Coast League 11-12 years ago, Liz had already been on the board for several years doing what she has always done best - advocating for the less fortunate. Whether it was coordinated homeless shelters in North County; inpatient mental health beds or juvenile justice, Liz was always at the forefront. Fast forward a decade and, guess what, Liz is still here, continuing to serve the League on both County and North County Boards. Liz

has been County Vice-President for mental health and North County off-board director for social policy - continuing to fight passionately for the less fortunate. But now with many successes under her belt – finally a coordinated winter shelter program; establishment of children and adult walk-in psychiatric assessment centers in north coastal and north inland San Diego County, and one of my favorites, a master’s program in psychiatric nursing at Cal State San Marcos which began in fall 2011 with ten candidates. As you can see, she made a difference in so many areas, but it is clear that her continued dedication to the plight of the mentally ill has made her one of the leading advocates for mental health here in San Diego County and for that and so much more, we salute her today.

~taken from remarks by LWVNCSD President Mary Crowley given at the May 16, 2012 ILO County Convention

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

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
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Midsummer 2012

Volume II, No. 6

Inside this issue:

Calendar at a glance	Page 1
Annual Meeting Recap	Page 1
Officers and Directors	Page 2
President's Message	Page 2
LWVUS Convention Recap	Page 3
In Memoriam	Page 4
Getting Involved Fall 2012	Page 4
Democracy in the Balance?	Page 5
What Do Observers Do?	Page 6
Bulletin Board	Page 6
Member News - ILO Award	Page 7
Membership Form	Page 7

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

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate"

~ Thomas Jefferson

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

Stay current, stay active, stay informed!

 www.lwvncsd.org

LWV California
www.lwvc.org

LWV United States
www.lwv.org