



VOTER

The VOICE of League for Members; the FACE of League for our Communities.

SEPTEMBER 2015 AT A GLANCE

- Fri, Sept. 11** LWVNCSD Bd Mtg
10 am LWD Offices, Carlsbad
- Thur, Sept. 17** **Annual Fall Kickoff**
5 pm – 7 pm Dove Library
- Mon, Sept. 21** Book Group Mtg
1 - 3 pm Home of Dvora
 Gittelson
- Wed, Sept. 23** San Dieguito Unit Mtg
1:30 – 3:30 pm Belmont Village, Cardiff

OCTOBER 2015 AT A GLANCE

- Fri, Oct 9** LWVNCSD Bd Mtg.
10 am LWD Offices, Carlsbad
- Mon, Oct 19** Book Group Mtg
1 pm – 3pm venue TBA
- Thur, Oct 15** Carlsbad Unit Mtg
10 am – 12 pm LWD Offices, Carlsbad
- Sat, Oct 17** Health Interest Mtg
10 am – 12 pm Home of Jane
 Dunmeyer
- Sat, Oct 24** Ag Study Informational
9:30 am - 12 pm Mtg
 Dove Library
- Wed, Oct 28** San Dieguito Unit Mtg
1:30 – 3:30 pm Belmont Village, Cardiff

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
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Annual Fall Kickoff
Reason to Celebrate
CONSTITUTION DAY 
SEPTEMBER 17TH

The League will mark its annual fall kickoff on Constitution Day, September 17th, in true League manner: co-hosting a free, educational event at the Dove Library in Carlsbad.

The event in the library's Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium on Thursday, September 17, from 5-7 pm, will feature a moderated panel of law, political science, and history professors discussing how we amend the U.S. Constitution. Cookies and punch will be served in the Library Courtyard following the panel discussion.

Giving deeper meaning to *We the People*, two Leagues and four branches of the American Association of University Women are co-sponsoring this panel discussion as part of the League's national study of the process of Amending the U.S. Constitution.

The Leagues of North County San Diego and San Diego City have joined forces to prepare for the LWVUS study and the member consensus, due by December 1.

There are many reasons to celebrate on this 228th birthday of the U.S. Constitution, a document which has inspired democratic movements around the globe. As League members, we will also be celebrating our deliberative process of study and consensus.

Be part of the process! Join us on Thursday, September 17th.

See Flyer Page 7

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Connie Ulrich	Secretary*
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*Steering Committee Member



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.

Thoughts from the Steering Committee on Membership

Welcome back to our fall League activities after a not so quiet summer! This *VOTER* is full of activities for the fall that League members have been working on this summer. It will be an exciting year!

In October, we will participate in an Informational Meeting on the County League Agricultural position that we studied last winter and spring. In addition, local League members are already hard at work on several national studies, including one on the Constitutional Amendment process and another on the effect of Money in Politics. A state study on financing Higher Education in California will begin in September (still time to join this committee!) We look forward to fascinating discussions as we learn about these topics in preparation for consensus on each.

Throughout this year, League members will meet at monthly unit and general meetings, at book club, our interest groups, and the semi-annual luncheons where League observers report on the governmental bodies and city councils they observe. There are numerous and varied opportunities for you to get involved at whatever level of activity you wish. Don't hesitate to call a committee chair or board member to learn more about an activity, event, or volunteer opportunity. Your questions and involvement will always be welcome!

Fall is also the time when we renew our commitment to the League by renewing our membership and recruiting new members to join us. You joined the League for a reason important to you. Perhaps, to become fully informed about the political process, to advocate for issues important to you, or to help your fellow citizens participate in the central act of our democracy, informed voting.

Please continue to do all this by renewing your membership in the League.

It is the activities and the friendships you've made in League that keep you excited to be a member of the League. Please renew when you receive your renewal letter. We'll miss you if you don't.

PS. Remember-- The League of Women Voters North County San Diego is a nonprofit and tax-exempt organization as defined in Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code. Dues and Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable under the law.

*Arlene, Barbara, Cathy,
and Connie*

September / October Meetings

Fall Kickoff General Meeting

Dove Library, 1775 Dove Ln, Carlsbad

Thursday • September 17 • 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Our League's annual fall Kickoff will be held on Thursday, September 17, in honor of Constitution Day, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

Besides the League's usual friendly gathering marking the beginning of the League's "work" year, this year we'll be inviting students and community members to join us in learning about an interesting (never successfully invoked!) method of amending our Constitution—an *Article V Convention*.

Book Group Meeting

All Members Welcome

Monday • September 21 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

By Margie Monroy

The League Book Group will meet on Monday September 21 at 1 PM at the home of Dvora Gittelson. We will discuss a *Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. Contact Margie Monroy for further information. <mailto:monroymario@att.net> or call 760-729-7242.

San Dieguito Unit Meeting

All Members Welcome

Belmont Village • 3535 Manchester • Cardiff

Wed. • September 23 • 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Wed. • October 28 • 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Elisa Arias, Principal Regional Planner for Long-Range Transportation and Binational Planning for SANDAG will present the draft of San Diego Forward: the Regional Plan for Transportation. The discussion of this important, and somewhat controversial, topic promises to be of interest to all. Come and join the discussion. Fresh, homemade cookies will be provided, please bring your own beverage.

The October meeting will include a presentation of the Constitutional Amendment study committee.

Parking Directions: You can park on Manchester or in the Temple Soliel parking lot. Walk to Manchester, turn right at the first short driveway. When you get to the end, veer left and you'll see the dining room entrance. You can go through that door, turn left and walk to the Town Hall Room.

See you there! For further information, please contact Unit Chair Anne Patton.

Welcome New Members:
Cecilia Baetge-Jolly
Phoebe Telser
Holly Wheeler

Carlsbad Unit Meeting

All Members Welcome

LWD Office • 1960 La Costa Ave. • Carlsbad

Thursday • October 15 • 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

By Karen Pendergast

Since the LWVNCSD will celebrate our annual fall kickoff event on Constitution Day, September 17th (see the front page article and flyer in this *VOTER!*), the Carlsbad unit will not hold a September unit meeting. We hope to see you all at the Constitution Day event!

The Carlsbad Unit will meet Thursday, October 15th, at 10 am at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office 1960 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad. The meeting will consist of two parts: a short informational presentation by the Constitutional Amendment study committee, and a discussion by member Margie Monroy of her 30 year journey as a LWV member. Both are sure to be fun and interesting.

Health Interest Committee Meeting

All Members Welcome

Saturday • October 17 • 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The LWVNC Health Interest Committee will be meeting for the first time this fiscal year on Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Jane Dunmeyer's home. We meet every third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. We will review what we have learned this last year. See "Health Interest Committee Interests and Activities" on Page 4.

Ag Study Informational Meeting

All Members Welcome

Dove Library, 1775 Dove Ln, Carlsbad

Saturday • October 24 • 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Be sure to attend this important meeting. Your opinion will be valued, and play an important role in the development of our Leagues' Local Agricultural Position See "Agricultural Study Nears Completion" page 5.

Health Interest Committee Interests and Activities

By Jane Dunmeyer

The LWVNC Health Interest Committee will be meeting for the first time this fiscal year on Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Jane Dunmeyer's home. We meet every third Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

Last year the Health Interest Committee took multiple field trips to one-, two-, and five-star assisted living facilities. We've learned: the difference between assisted living, skilled nursing, and memory care; how Personal Care Assistants, RNs, LVNs, and other caregivers differ; what those star ratings mean; and what an ombudsman for the County does for residents and their families. We've learned about good nursing care as well as poor nursing care, and what can be done about poor care. We've learned the value of advocates for residents of a residential care facility for the elderly (RCFE) or a skilled nursing facility (SNF)—yes, we've learned many acronyms too. We've studied laws and more laws, and observed astonishing examples of kindness and caring, but also abuse. We've followed the current "Death with Dignity" debate, and seen the purposes of living wills, and Physician orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (POLSTs).

This year we will learn about hospice care, and about local advocates for changing and monitoring laws of RCFEs. We consider social, economic, physical, emotional, legal, mental health, political, medical, (and other issues I'm sure I've forgotten,) aspects of rights and challenges of elders in licensed and unlicensed living situations. Join us and become part of our caring and inquisitive group. Tea and crumpets too.

For more information call Jane Dunmeyer, 760-473-7931, Chair of the Health Interest Committee.

Agricultural Study Nears Completion

By Margaret Dornish

The Agriculture Study took center stage at the County League Day on August 28th. Those who attended saw "Sniffer Dog" Venus and her handler Jeremy Partch do their stuff and heard from County officials Ha Dang, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, and Lori Renstrom, Assistant to the

Advisor for the UC Cooperative Extension program. Both officials generously provided the Study Committee with critical information on the diverse ways in which agriculture is practiced in the county and the many challenges farmers currently face.

The final phase of the study prior to submission to the San Diego County ILO-LWV for adoption will be



member meetings with the Study Committee in October to discuss the report and recommendations. All materials will be posted on the North County and City league websites by September 15th, well before the member meetings.

Left: Sniffer Dog Venus and Handler Jeremy Partch at the County League Day.

Seacrest Project Update

By Jackie Stone

Our collaborative project with Del Mar-Leucadia AAUW this summer will continue into the fall as our two organizations work together to lead discussions with the delightful residents at the Seacrest Village Retirement Community in Encinitas. We have been alternating our program responsibilities so that LWVNCSD and Del Mar Leucadia AAUW each lead the discussion once a month. The programs have varied greatly and interestingly...from a film and discussion led by AAUW member Fran Miller about human computers, known as "Top Secret Rosies, used in WWII," to an informative review by League member Norelynn Pion-Goureau of issues in our college educational systems.

Coming up in September, talented Leaguer Dvora Gittelson and Evelyn Lipson, fellow musicians who call their group "Chicken Soup", will entertain the residents (and us!) with songs and anecdotes about Rosh Hashanah. The residents can't wait!

You are invited to join us in leading these discussions. We're having a wonderful time so come and be part of the fun! We can provide you with a topic, assistance doing research, and more help than you really need, so please let us hear from you if you are willing to lead a discussion. Call me and let's talk. We welcome help from all of you! Call Jackie Stone 760-687-3141 for more information.

From Civil Discourse to Deliberation

By Mary Thompson & Martha Cox

Highlights and Lowlights – In case you think the costs of incivility mostly affect our political sphere, comes this from a 2013 study in *Harvard Business Review* about the [price of incivility](#).

Research shows that people are less likely to buy from a company with an employee they perceive as rude, whether the rudeness is directed at them or at other employees. Witnessing just a single unpleasant interaction leads customers to generalize about other employees, the organization, and even the brand.

On the other hand, civility pays dividends: a retired judge in Los Angeles told of informally polling juries about what determined their favor. He found that respect — and how attorneys behaved — was crucial. Juries were swayed based on thin slices of civil or arrogant behavior.

Civility Matters

We all need to reconsider our behavior. You are always in front of some jury. In every interaction, you have a choice: Do you want to lift people up or hold them down?

*Christine Porath
Harvard Business Review*

LWV National Study on Amending the U.S. Constitution

By Anne Omsted, Study Group member, North County League

The LWVUS has begun a national study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. Article V of the Constitution contains two paths to an amendment. The first path, familiar to all and used successfully 27 times in the past 226 years, involves Congress proposing an amendment and three fourths of the states ratifying it. The second path, not used since the Constitutional Convention of 1787, requires two thirds of the states (34 currently) to request Congress to call a Constitutional convention to propose an amendment. Congress may not refuse this request. Any amendment proposed by this convention must be ratified by three fourths of the state legislatures.

This LWVUS study will enable the LWV to determine whether it will support or oppose an Article

V Constitutional convention. And, there is a real possibility that we will see a Constitutional convention in the next three to five years. Currently, 32 states' requests for an Article V Constitutional convention have been filed with Congress. The requests all deal with annually balancing the federal budget.

Within this context, the LWVUS study will examine the Article V process as outlined in the Constitution itself and the historical references and precedents that exist. The consensus questions for this study contain three parts; evaluating various Constitutional amendment proposals, aspects of an Article V convention, and how the LWV should deal with problems related to a proposed amendment and our established positions.

In November our local Leagues' study committee will be presenting the actual consensus questions. For this LWVUS study we hope to provide you with enough information so that we can all have a stimulating, thoughtful, and informed discussion about this fascinating and important subject. Here's a link to [the LWVUS Constitutional Amendments Study Guide](#).

In the meantime, here is a summary of the first part of the consensus questions. The other two parts will be covered in the October and November *VOTERS*. The first section is entitled *Considerations For Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals*. The question asks what factors form an appropriate and well-thought-out proposed amendment.

- a. Is it about a fundamental issue which must be resolved by amending the Constitution?
- b. Is it written clearly and in a way that will actually achieve the desired goal?
- c. Will it make our governing system more democratic? Will it protect the rights of individuals?
- d. Would a law change achieve the same thing?
- e. Is the issue better served by a general constitutional approach or by a detailed, specific statute?

To explore these questions in greater depth, our local Leagues will co-sponsor a panel discussion on *Amending the U.S. Constitution: How Shall We Evaluate Amendment Proposals* at a free, community event at the Dove Library in Carlsbad on Thursday, September 17, Constitution Day, from 5-7 pm.

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES ARE DRIVING ELECTION RESULTS!!!

The LWV San Diego and LWV North County San Diego League are partnering in the national League study on Money in Politics. The study committee will work through the fall, coming to consensus in December 2015. This article is adapted from the paper, "Independent Expenditures" developed by the LWVUS Committee on Money in Politics...by Kay Ragan

Some may think it is ok that independent expenditures are driving election outcomes, but is it? When those expenditures are not disclosed, as in the 2012 presidential election, or when most of the money came from only slightly more than one percent of the population, then "independent" doesn't sound so good anymore.

"In theory, independent expenditures are not contributions to a candidate and, therefore, cannot constitute a quid pro quo (this for that) exchange, the only form of corruption the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes in the political sphere. In practice, the boundaries between candidates and organizations making independent expenditures are porous, the reformers question how much benefit a candidate can receive without becoming beholden to them."

Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* there has been an increase in donations from giant for-profit international corporations to local "charitable groups", labeled 501(c)(4)'s, to spend unlimited amounts of money in candidate elections.

Tax law does not require IRS approval before an organization operates under 501(c)(4) tax exempt status, and there is no authoritative list of all 501(c)(4) organizations. The IRS polices compliance by auditing a small number of returns annually. An organization may request IRS approval and the number of applications increased significantly between 2010 and 2012. You may remember allegations of improper political bias against conservative groups in 2013 when some oversight was conducted.

Social welfare organizations have often enjoyed tax exempt status and often have political inclinations and lobby. Direct or indirect participation in political campaigns on behalf of a candidate are not allowable social welfare activities. "Beginning in 1959, regulators interpreted the statutory requirement that an organization operate exclusively for the promotion

of social welfare to mean primarily for the promotion of social welfare, and primarily has come to mean no more than 50.1 percent of its program."

The evolution of campaign finance regulations relative to independent expenditures dates back several years. Congress amended the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) in 1974. Those amendments limited contributions and expenditures for campaigns, individuals, and political committees. It also created the Federal Election Commission to enforce the rules. In 1976, the Supreme Court disallowed the limits on campaign expenditures and independent expenditures as infringing on freedom of speech. Disclosure rules and limits on direct contributions to campaigns survived the decision.

In 2002 Congress closed the "soft money" loophole that allowed unlimited contributions to political parties and banned "electioneering communication" by corporations and labor unions within 60 days of a general election or 30 days of a primary election. "The FECA defines electioneering communications as paid advertisements on broadcast media targeted toward a relevant electorate which clearly identifies a candidate."

The Supreme Court in 2010 reversed itself in *Citizens United v. FEC* that prohibition on electioneering communications by corporations is protected political speech.

"The distinguishing feature of independent expenditures is non-coordination with candidates' campaigns." FECA created "Political Action Committees" (PACs) in 1971 as a means for corporations and labor unions to make contributions to candidate campaigns by aggregating voluntary contributions from owners, executives, employees and members, and their use expanded to encompass any political committee organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect or defeat candidates.

The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United*

made it possible for all organizations that do not coordinate with campaigns for the election of candidates to receive unlimited contributions and make unlimited independent expenditures, called "super PACs." However many super PACs are run by individuals with close ties to candidates or political parties or only support a single candidate or political party.

Unregulated and undisclosed money in politics is increasing, yet the vast majority of campaign
See Money In Politics Page 7

Money In Politics Continued:

expenditures are still made through political organizations regulated by the FEC. The question then is, do independent expenditure affect election outcomes? The answer is unclear. There is not enough data on which to measure the extent to which independent expenditures may influence elections.

Independent expenditures are made by a very small group of people. Since the Supreme Court decided Citizens United in 2010, one billion dollars has been spent through super PACs and 60 percent of that was given by only 195 individuals and their spouses. This has to give them great potential influence. This money came from organizations with undisclosed donors, also known as dark money.

We are all interested in what can be done. The following are possible actions:

- Congress and the FEC have the authority to exclude spending by an organization started by a candidate’s family member or former staffer.
- Deal with the undisclosed contributions; the Supreme Court has been clear that there is no constitutional right to make undisclosed political contributions.
- The IRS can curb abuse by organizations by issuing new, reformed regulations limiting the size of political spending by 501(c)(4) groups.
- Challenge the Supreme Court’s opinion that independent expenditures can’t corrupt because they are truly independent of candidates.

If you would like to read more on this topic go to http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip_independent_expenditures_final_pdf



AMENDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

League of Women Voters
Fall Kickoff and Panel Discussion



Dove Library
1775 Dove Lane
Carlsbad, CA 92011
Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium

Thursday 9/17/2015 5 – 7 pm	A free community forum to explore how to evaluate constitutional amendment proposals
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN DIEGO
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Lunch with League

San Diego's Transportation Plan: Moving Ahead or Falling Behind?
Transportation plans that fit with our Climate Action Plan

Thursday, September 24, 2015

11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant

*\$30 for LWV members and cosponsoring organizations (by September 21)
and \$35 for others and at the door*

Speakers



Nicole Capretz
San Diego
Climate
Action
Campaign



Jana Clark
Cleveland
National
Forest
Foundation



Samantha Ollinger
Bike
San Diego

Save our Countryside.
Save our Cities. **SAY NO**
to urban development in rural San Diego County.



Co-Sponsors

STAY COOL
PROTECT OUR GRAND KIDS FROM GLOBAL WARMING



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO



LWVSD Luncheon — Transportation — Thursday, September 24, 2015

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

Guest(s) _____

Amount enclosed _____ \$30 for LWV members and cosponsoring organizations (by September 21);
\$35 for guests and anyone who registers after September 21. Make checks payable to LWVSD and
mail to 7710 Balboa Ave. 224A, San Diego CA 92111, 858-483-8898, or register on our website with
Paypal www.lwvsandiego.org Click on 'donate' button, 'amount' \$30 or \$35, 'purpose' Luncheon.

Stay Connected and Share

NEW: Our Twitter feed is on the website, www.lwvncsd.org. Just check out the side bar to see items and retweets relating to our League mission. It's getting our message out to an even wider audience.

**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
- \$30/year, new members joining after Feb. 1st
- \$30/year Students enrolled in accredited Institution.

Additional levels of giving (thank you!):

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

I am interested in the following:

- Provide organizational support
- Participate in Voter Service
- Participate in Interest groups:
- Book Group
- Civil Discourse
- Health
-

The League of Women Voters North County San Diego is a nonprofit and tax exempt organization as defined in Section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code. Dues and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable under the law."



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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

FIRST CLASS



September, 2015

Volume V, No. 6

Inside this issue:

Fall Kickoff	Page 1
Officers and Directors	Page 2
Steering Comm. Message	Page 2
Unit & Int. Group Mtgs.	Page 3
Health Committee	Page 4
Ag Study	Page 4
Seacrest Update	Page 4
Civil Discourse	Page 5
Constitution Study	Page 5
Money in Politics	Page 6
Kickoff flyer	Page 7
Lunch with League	Page 8

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.

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

