



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

July 2014

Volume 49, Number 1

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President's Message

Hello Fellow Members,

Recently returning from a lovely, serene, and creative art and yoga workshop in Casole d'Elsa at the Verrocchio Art Center in beautiful Tuscany, I am now wonderfully primed for another year's happenings with the League in Santa Cruz.

The board met for a planning session last Wednesday at IHOP restaurant where we tentatively set our calendar for the coming 2014-2015 year. Our first event in September continues our

emphasis on health and safety in Santa Cruz County and how services are being planned and provided for those at risk and in need. Presenting the results of their strategic planning for drug and alcohol abuse treatment in our county will be Santa Cruz County's Drug and Alcohol Program's director, Dr. Bill Manov, and its program manager, Brenda Armstrong. Plans have been set for September 9th from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the conference room at the Health Services Agency on Emeline Avenue in Santa Cruz.



A big thank you to our voter services chair Jan Karwin for her expert organization of the Candidates' Forum for Sheriff at the Capitola Senior Center last month. Thanks also to all our members who helped make the forum a success: Sue Becker, Peggy Marketello, Laura Grossman, Marcia Minnihan, Morgan Rankin, Eve Roberson, Karen Smith, Dee Takemoto, Kathy Van Horn, Sandy Warren, and videographer Pam Newbury, who recorded the event. A follow-up meeting was arranged with forum volunteers to fine-tune our skills for the next forum. Jan Karwin, Marcia Minnehan, Sue Becker, Dottie Fry, Pam Newbury and I attended the follow-up meeting at Pam's home in Bonny Doon on the patio of her beautifully forested setting with cats, birds and deer gracing our presence. Thank you, Pam, and to all participating in this community service through which the League, known for being fair and non-partisan, helps citizens become informed voters.

I am sorry to announce that Kathy Van Horn, our loyal and efficient secretary for five years, will be stepping down from her position on the board. She would like to devote her full concentration to training her new and energetic puppy. We wish her luck in this new venture; we will miss her amazing note-taking and are happy that she will continue as a dedicated member.

We have two new board members I would like to mention who have already volunteered for service at two of our recent local events: Dottie Fry, our new voter services co-chair and Dee Takemoto, director-at-large. Welcome, ladies!

Passions are already revving up nationally and statewide for November elections. Stay tuned to the VOTER and lwvsc.org where we will keep you informed and up-to-date on our local informational presentations and issues needing advocacy and action from the national and state Leagues.

Wishing you a cool, safe, and happy 4th of July!
—Peggy Walker Marketello, President LWVSCC

Calendar

Tuesday, July 8, 2014
1–3 P.M.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
1–3 P.M.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, September 9th
11:30 A.M.—1:00 P.M.
Lunch with director Bill Manov, Ph.D.,
and program manager Brenda Armstrong,
of the Santa Cruz County Drug and
Alcohol Program
Location details to be announced.
Free and open to League members and
the public; bring your own bag lunch.
Please reserve your place by calling
(831)426-VOTE(8683) or email us at
league@lwvsc.org



2014/15 Program and Board Members

At our annual meeting, members approved the following board-recommended topics for meetings in the coming year: (1) programs for locally incarcerated individuals in need of treatment for substance abuse and/or mental illness and (2) water supply.

Members also approved the slate of officers and directors recommended by the nominating committee, chaired by Sandy Warren.

OFFICERS

President: Peggy Marketello
1st Vice President
/Membership: Barbara Lewis
2nd Vice President/Voters
Service Co-Chair: Sue Becker
Secretary: Jan Karwin
Treasurer: Marcia Minnihan

DIRECTORS

Program Chair: Jan Beautz
VOTER Editor: Pam Newbury
Voters Service Co-Chair:
Dorothy Fry
Director-at-Large:
Dee Takemoto

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair:
Joyce Anderson
Committee Member:
Stephanie Harlan
Committee Member:
Sandy Warren

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

CTV Publicity Chair:
Joyce Anderson
Membership Database:
Laura Grossman

State League Advocacy Discussed at Annual Meeting

At our 49th annual meeting on June 1, LWVSCC members voted to approve the recommended program proposals and elect the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee (see sidebar for details).

At the meeting, Helen Hutchison, LWV of California vice president for program and advocacy, spoke about the League's advocacy process. The strength of the LWV is that we are unified and speak with one voice. League members study issues and develop positions upon which we can act and advocate. While individual members may have personal opinions that differ from League policy, when a League member represents the League, they speak in accord with our policies and positions, or remain silent. .



Helen Hutchison speaks at LWVSCC meeting

The national board decides [national policy](#) in response to input from all League members. The LWVC state board decides state policy and local Leagues work at the local level.

The roots of the League are in the women's suffrage movement, and the founders were clear from the beginning that the League must maintain the dual identities of voter education and issue advocacy. For its entire history, League policy has been to be fair, open, and neutral.

When deciding where to focus the League's energy at the state level, the highest priorities are the core issues: voting rights, redistricting, and campaign finance. The second tier priorities are healthcare and water. Currently, key issues for advocacy and action by LWVC are money in politics and education, with water and health care being the second tier of focus.

When deciding whether or not to sponsor a bill, the first step is to have experts do an analysis on why the bill was written, who supports it, who opposes it, if it will make a difference if the League supports it, and how it relates to League positions. Hutchison emphasized that it's important not to support a bill until we know everything that's going on around it. This analysis provides the foundation on which the League's legislative committee decides how the League will respond to the legislation. If there are conflicting positions, the committee looks at what is more important and at past precedents, then weighs the pros and cons against each other.

Sometimes the League will decide to co-sponsor the bill with other organizations or join a coalition of sponsors. The League may decide to testify for or against a particular bill. It may send out action alerts to members to encourage action on behalf of their representatives. The League may also advocate at state agencies to implement and monitor the legislation.

When taking local action, first stop and make a plan. Think about local positions, ask experts to provide information, and consider working in coalition with other local groups. Interest in an issue by local Leagues gains attention and sometimes assistance from the state League. Local Leagues can also initiate a community education campaign.

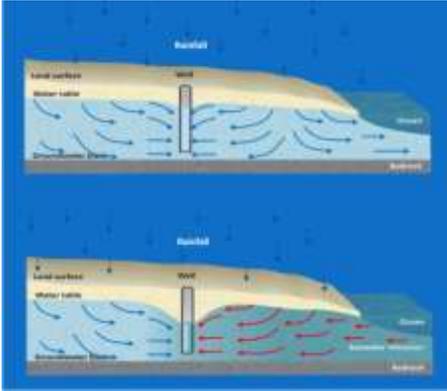
At lwvc.org you can stay informed about League events; sign up for the LWVC newsletter and action alerts; learn about state and national positions; read more about LWVC's key priorities and sponsored legislation; find out all there is to know about legislative advocacy in the *LWVC Legislative Handbook*, and more.

In closing, Hutchison pointed out that the most important thing to remember when in doubt about a position is to ask a human being: the League has plenty of people who are ready, willing, and able to help you take action.

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

Keeping Water Flowing in Soquel Creek Water District

At LWVSCC's May 30 luncheon, [Soquel Creek Water District's](#) (SqCDW) general manager, Kim Adamson, described the complicated dance the district is doing to ensure that its customers continue to have adequate water supplies while simultaneously protecting the aquifer so it will be usable for future generations.



SqCWD pumps 100% of its water from underground aquifers replenished by rainwater using no surface water from Soquel Creek. Rainwater, naturally filtered as it percolates into the ground, collects in aquifers, with the overflow eventually making its way back to the ocean. When more water is pumped out of the aquifer than can be replenished by rainfall, ocean water pushes in and contaminates the fresh water in the aquifer, making it unusable unless it is desalinated. Once saltwater intrusion into an aquifer occurs, it takes decades to reverse.

Saltwater intrusion has been documented in the Monterey Bay area for over 50 years, but agencies have been slow to react. With groundwater levels below sea level in many areas of the district, when saltwater intrusion occurs, it will happen quickly, so it's important to take steps now to prevent intrusion. Monitoring of the district's 85 test wells along the coast shows elevated levels of chloride, which signals the beginning of salt water intrusion at La Selva, Seascape, and Live Oak.

Primary Water shortage issue: seawater intrusion.
Image credit: Soquel Creek Water District

Hydrologists have indicated that the SqCWD must pump no more than 2900 acre feet per year (an "acre foot" is the amount of water it would take to cover a football field in one foot of water) for the next 20 years to allow the water basin to recover and prevent further saltwater intrusion. Current use is about 4600 acre feet per year (AFY). By 2025 usage is expected to increase to 4790 AFY. An anticipated additional 10% water savings through conservation leaves a shortfall of 30%, or 1360 AFY. SqCWD's challenge is to make up for this shortfall.

In California, one of two states that don't regulate water rights, property owners have superior overlying rights to take water from under their property unless otherwise decided through the judicial process. Municipal water suppliers have junior appropriative rights to pump ground water for their customers. Many private wells draw water from the aquifer without restrictions, with Cabrillo College and Seascape Golf Course being two of the largest. In addition, Santa Cruz city relies on the same water. With the groundwater basin shared by so many users, water shortages are a regional problem that affects us all, so a regional solution is needed. A private-well stakeholder group is being instituted to talk about shared solutions.



Seawater intrusion in the SqCWD service area
Image credit: Soquel Creek Water District

In 1999, a public advisory process recommended looking for a supplemental water supply, considering water recycling and desalination, and diverting water from Soquel Creek. Since then, most of the recommendations have been taken off the table or otherwise deemed not feasible, or too costly.

Long-term mandatory water use restrictions are being instituted. New and expanding development projects must meet water demand offset requirements. Moratoriums on new water connections are also being considered. The district's water conservation plan includes the Water Smart program, which shows people how their water usage compares to their neighbors; new rebates for water saving fixtures and appliances; and monthly billing instead of bi-monthly for more immediate feedback.

Exploratory meetings are being held to consider solutions. Seventy percent of SqCWD customers support desalination in the Soquel district, but unfortunately that option may be too expensive for SqCWD on its own. Another possibility, [DeepWater Desal](#), currently being considered in Moss Landing, would draw the clearer, cleaner water from deep in the Monterey Submarine Canyon and use it to cool a computer data server farm; the resulting heated water can then be desalinated at a lower cost (heating water accounts for a large part of the expense of desalination). Surface transfer of water with Santa Cruz using excess water from the San Lorenzo is the least likely solution. The district has also considered using recycled water for an injection well saltwater barrier and for basin recharge. Injecting recycled water into the groundwater for a barrier and recharge is the most expensive option and has only 39% support, so the district would need to put a lot of effort into educating customers on the benefits of recycled water. Using recycled water for irrigation can be done in limited situations.

Although no easy solutions exist, Adamson and SqCWD are meeting the challenges head on, with education and awareness as the foundation of their plan.

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

Voters Service Wrap-Up

This past year LWVSCC has been very productive in building an active voters service team and involving a great many of our members.

In preparation for National Voter Registration Day last September, League members signed up for voter registration training at the County Elections Department and helped register voters at four locations: Ben Lomond Market, the Cabrillo College campuses in Aptos and Watsonville, and at Safeway on the west side of Santa Cruz.

On May 6, 2014, our state League management training advisor, Jackie Jacobberger, conducted voters service training for our local League members. The workshop focused on how to present the Pros & Cons of ballot measures and how to conduct a candidates' forum.

The Pros & Cons of the two June 3 state ballot measures were presented to residents of a local retirement community by Morgan Rankin, past voter service chair.

On May 22, with funds from the LWV Education Fund, our local League sponsored a candidates' forum for the office of County Sheriff-Coroner on the June 3, 2014 ballot. League members served as moderator, timekeepers, question sorters, ushers, and videographer. A link to the video of the forum was posted on our League's website under Elections (the video is now located on our website under Calendar-Past).

Many thanks to the following League members who participated in this past year's voter service activities: Sue Becker, Kathy Donovan, Nan Fitch, Dottie Fry, Mary Gardner-Loicutoff, Laura Grossman, Wendy Harris, Joan Hebert, Lynn Houser, Pam Newbury, Jan Karwin, Dorrie Kennedy, Barbara Lewis, Peggy Marketello, Marcia Minnihan, Morgan Rankin, Eve Roberson, Karen Smith, Dee Takemoto, Eric Thomassen, Kathy Van Horn, and Sandy Warren.

Pretty darn good for an "off-year" election cycle!

—Jan Karwin, 2013-2014 Voters Service Chair

Water Conservation Lessons

On Friday, July 19 from 7 to 8:30 P.M., at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center Street in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives presents lessons on water conservation from Conner Everts, executive director of the Southern California Watershed Alliance, and Ron Duncan, conservation manager for the Soquel Creek Water District. Everts will report what he learned on his recent visit to Australia about how they achieved unprecedented levels of water conservation in response to a ten-year drought. Duncan will report on the SqCWD's plan to reduce water consumption by 30% for the next 20 years. Admission is free.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

____ \$65 Individual annual membership

____ \$100 Two members in a household

____ \$30 Student membership

____ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

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