



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

MARCH 2013 AT A GLANCE

Sat, Mar. 2 9:30 am - 12:30 pm	General Meeting Initiative & Referendum
Tues, Mar. 5 10 am - 12 pm	Voter Service Mtg LWD Offices
Fri, Mar. 8 10 am - 12:00 pm	Board Meeting LWD Offices
Mar 10 - 16	Sunshine Week!
Thurs, Mar. 14 10 am - 12 pm	Joint Unit Mtg of Carlsbad/Escondido/ Oceanside/Vista, LWD Offices
Mon, Mar. 18 1:15 - 3:00 pm	Book Group Home of Cathy Greene
Tues, Mar. 19 11:30 am - 1 pm	San Diego City Luncheon SD Foundation
Wed, Mar. 20 1:30 - 3:00 pm	San Dieguito Unit Mtg Belmont Village, Cardiff
Sat, Mar. 23 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse Mtg San Marcos Library

~ Looking Ahead ~

Sat. Apr. 6 2 - 4 pm	League River Park Walk Lagoon Trail #11
May 17 - 19	LWVC Convention San Jose
Sat, June 8	LWVNCSD Annual Mtg

Stay Informed; check the Master Calendar on the "member only" page often

Meetings are open to the public and guests are 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

Sunshine Week - "Let the Sun Shine In"...! March 10 - 16, 2013

This year, the week of March 10-16 marks **Sunshine Week**, a non-partisan national initiative held the week of James Madison's birthday to promote open



government and freedom of information. One of the goals of Sunshine Week is "to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger."

The League has been an active supporter and co-sponsor of Sunshine Week activities and is dedicated to expanding public awareness about accountability and transparency in government. We believe that "government bodies should give adequate notice of proposed actions, hold open meetings and make public records accessible."

To have open meetings, government entities need to publicize their meeting locations. It is surprising to find that so many agency websites do not make it easy for a citizen to find the date, time and location of their public meetings. Maybe it's time to lobby these agencies to put some sunshine on their meetings. More citizens might attend and become informed.

If you have a favorite local public agency, we invite you to go to their websites and determine how easy or difficult it is to determine where and when they have their regularly scheduled public meetings. If you report back to our webmaster at <http://www.lwvncsd.org/> (at bottom of page, click on contact webmaster), we can make our website one of the most valuable for citizens of our county. Isn't that our goal?

Ref: <http://www.lwv.org/content/sunshine-week>

*Thank you to contributors,
Suzanne Carneiro and Liz Gabrych*

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
Liz Gabrych	Natural Resources
Cathy Greene	Voter Services
Carol Grimes-Gartland	Education
Margie Monroy	Member Communications
Amber Starbuck	Program Planning co-chair
Jackie Stone	Program Planning co-chair
Connie Ulrich (LOA)	Observer Chair
Virginia Webb	Membership

Unit Chairs

Carol Grimes-Gartland	Carlsbad Unit Chair
Yvon Dacayana	Escondido Unit Chair
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! Contributors

Many thanks to our "communications ambassadors" who wrote the articles, maintained our website and our Facebook image, proofread the final product, and assisted with production/distribution this month.

Suzanne Carneiro • Mary Crowley
Yvon Dacayana • Peggy Dornish • Peg Dyer
Liz Gabrych • Cathy Greene • Barbara Lorenzen
Gloria Marsh • Consuelo Martinez • Margie Monroy
Anne Omsted • Becky Sciglimpaglia • Jackie Stone
Mary Thompson

President's Message

by Mary Crowley, President



I know you'll be looking at the program planning report on page 4 that discusses the consensus of our league regarding priorities for LWVC for the next 2 years. Just like last year when decisions were made at the LWVUS

convention for the 2012-2014 biennium, action will be taken for the state league at the LWVC Convention for the 2013-2015 biennium. Over and above biennial program planning, both leagues also establish legislative priorities every January.

This year the legislative priorities for LWVUS are: first tier – money in politics and the many facets of Election Reform; second tier – focus for 2013 will be Climate Change, Gun Safety and Immigration. Other issues, such as Health Care, Defense and Budget/Taxes may be acted on as opportunities arise for League action. These decisions are based on what issues are likely to come before the 113th Congress. The Board reviews these priorities throughout the year, making changes if necessary

The state league, LWVC, has also decided to look at money in politics, calling their campaign "Shining the Light on Money in Politics". The League will be focusing on a "package" of bills which address three broad areas: election filings and disclosure; ending the "dark money" loophole; and enforcement.

To see the complete list and more detail go to the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org and the LWVC site at www.ca.lwv.org.

I would like to close with a special thanks to Senator Mark Wyland and his staff for participating in our legislative interview process and for extending an invitation to LWV North County to attend the wonderful all-day event hosted by **Senator Wyland** and **Assembly Member Toni Atkins**. The conference appropriately titled "*Manufacturing in the Golden State: Making California Thrive*" was informative and productive. We are also looking forward to our interview with **Assembly Member Rocky Chavez** in early March.

Mary

The View from Here

by Peggy Dornish, ILO Communications Director

Last month we celebrated the League's birthday on February 14. **March is National Women's History month**, in which the League also figures prominently. I want to use this occasion to celebrate a modern League heroine, Percy Maxim Lee (1906-2002), LWVUS President for four terms from 1950 to 1958.

The stage on which she acted was the "witch hunt" period of the early 1950's, in some respects a period like this, when our individual rights and liberties were under attack. As both the League's official voice and our moral conscience, Percy testified against Senator Joe McCarthy's now infamous abuse of Congressional investigative powers in a Senate hearing on Constitutional Rights in 1955. There she unequivocally stated: "I believe tolerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men and women whose instincts are worthily patriotic, but whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy." During this same period, she led the League's "Freedom Agenda" program to remind citizens of the critical importance of maintaining our individual Constitutionally guaranteed liberties.

Those vital roles, however, were but several of the many she played during her extraordinary presidency. With member support, she created the Education Fund and the National Voter and inaugurated the first of the Presidential debates. While she was President, the League more than doubled its membership, reaching 120,000 and grew from 740 Leagues to over 1,000. Let her view be ours as we meet the challenges facing us: "The League. . . is too valuable to the United States to allow it to lose its impact on individuals and public policy. Although I have been accused of naivete in my belief that the power of a democratic society rests with its citizens, I still hold to this vision as well as to the belief that the sum of its communities determines the quality of the nation. The League has a role to play of vital importance."

League Joins Amicus Briefs in Shelby County v. Holder case on Voting Rights Act (VRA)

Washington, D.C. (02/08/2013) – Today, the League of Women Voters of the U.S. announced it has signed onto an amicus brief in the pivotal voting rights case, **Shelby County v. Holder**. At issue is whether Congress exceeded its authority under the 15th Amendment to fight racial discrimination in voting by enacting the 2006 amendments to **the Voting Right Act (VRA)**, which were signed into law by President Bush. Section 5 contains special enforcement provisions covering those areas of the country where Congress demonstrated that significant racial discrimination against voters still continues.

"The Voting Rights Act is an essential part of American democracy. The thought that the Supreme Court might overrule Congress and take away voting rights should **send a chill down the spine of every American**," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League of Women Voters. "Based upon a record of thousands of pages of testimony, Congress knew what it was doing in 2006. It would be wrong for the Supreme Court to substitute its will for that of our elected representatives in Congress."

Sacramento, Calif. – A coalition of civic, conservation, environmental justice, labor, preservation, and public health groups today announced the launch of CEQA Works. The new coalition is an effort to shield California's landmark environmental law from radical reforms that would limit public input into land use planning, threaten public health, and weaken environmental protections.

Participating organizations are committed to educating the state's residents and legislators about the significant benefits the California Environmental Quality Act has brought to the state since it was enacted by Governor Ronald Reagan 43 years ago. To learn more about CEQA Works and to see a full list of organizations that have endorsed the effort, go to www.ceqaworks.org. To connect with spokespeople and get information about CEQA success stories in your area, please contact Severn Williams at sev@publicgoodpr.com, 510-336-9566.

compiled by Margie Monroy, LWVNCSD Communications

2013 Program Planning

by Jackie Stone, Program Planning Co-Chair

Many thanks to the forty members who attended our State/Local Program Planning meeting on January 12 at the Dove Library Community Room. Our discussion was lively and engaging. We reached consensus on retention of all of the current LWVC positions, but requested that the state board consider updating:

- 1) the Election Systems position to address the role of mail-in balloting and the role of political parties in relation to primaries; and,
- 2) the Community College System section to include the UC and CSU systems or, if this is not possible, do a Study of the funding of the UC and CSU systems.

The group chose issues from the current positions for Education and Advocacy. The top three choices were:

- 1) Climate Change
- 2) Gun Control
- 3) Water Reuse and Desalination

Please think about these and let your president or board members know if you want to be included in the activities and/or discussions concerning the topic(s) near and dear to your heart!

New Opportunities for **VOTER SERVICE**

by Cathy Greene, Voter Services Director

Now that we have recovered from our very busy and very successful fall election season, it is time to turn our attention to other ways to offer much needed programs and services to our communities. I invite all members to look over what is happening this spring and to consider signing up for one or both of our spring voter service activities. I guarantee that you will meet interesting people, learn about important issues, be of real service to your community, and have fun too.

Our first activity is an organizational meeting for a new committee.

Each year our League receives requests for speakers to present talks on current issues of concern to our communities. To answer this need for speakers on current event topics, this committee will choose several important issues each year to research for presentation to local community organizations and to post online for the wider community.

If researching current issues and/or presenting current topics sounds like something that you might like to be part of in any way, ***please attend our first meeting on March 5th, 10 am to noon, at the Leucadia Wastewater District Office board room, 1960 La Costa Ave, Carlsbad.***

Our second activity this spring will be monitoring the annual student government elections at MiraCosta Community College.

Many of you help with this every year and I hope you will be generous with your time again this year. If you are new to League, this is a great way to meet other League members and to be of service, while having a good time visiting the campus and meeting the students. The elections will be held at the three campuses (Oceanside main campus, the Learning Center on Mission Ave. in Oceanside, and the San Elijo campus) on 2 days, April 17th and April 18th. Volunteers are assigned in pairs for a two-hour shift.

If you would like to volunteer, please call or email me. We need 32 volunteers over the two-day voting event. I really appreciate your willingness to help with this. And every year, MiraCosta Student Government has given our League a generous honorarium in appreciation for our efforts.

If you have any questions about either of these voter service activities, please call me at 760-730-9136 or email me at:

csgreene49@aol.com.

Thanks and I hope to hear from you!

Cathy

Do We Have to Take This Much Initiative? Initiative & Referendum Study • Ready for Consensus?

League Event Draws a Crowd at the Dove Library Auditorium

by Mary Thompson, I & R Study Committee

On a recent rainy, Friday afternoon, over 170 people filled the 205-seat Dove Library Auditorium for a free, community event. League of Women Voters California Senior Director for Program, Trudy Schafer, lead a lively discussion about California's initiative process with a panel of the State's experts at the January 25th event. The audience included members of Carlsbad High's advanced-placement government class as well as representatives from the YMCA's Youth-in-Government program. Also in the audience was Michael Arno, president of Arno Political Consultants, a leading signature-gathering firm based in Carlsbad.

The event, sponsored by the North County and San Diego City Leagues, along with California Common Cause, featured UCSD associate professor of Political Science, Thad Kousser, Cal Western School of Law professor of law Glenn Smith, commentator and co-author of *California Crack-up*, Joe Mathews, and Robert Stern, former president of the Center of Governmental Studies.

The event was part of a series of events and publications to raise awareness and educate members about California's initiative process, leading to a general meeting of consensus about the League's position on the subject, scheduled for March 2nd at the Vista Library.

For details and a video of the January 25th event go to: <http://lwvncsd.org/Events.html>



**Consensus Meeting
Initiative & Referendum Study
March 2, 2013**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Vista Library Community Room
700 Eucalyptus, Vista**

Please bring your goldenrod pull-out section from the February Voter and a beverage with you.



January 25, 2013 Panel at Dove Library (top); Mary Thompson, Yvon Dacayana (upper left), Claudine Jones (above), Anne Omsted (left) present I & R Study findings.



March Bulletin Board

Unit Meetings & Events



Interest Groups

***Combined Unit Mtg. Carlsbad, Escondido, Oceanside/Vista Thursday, Mar. 14 • 10 am - 12 pm**

The Carlsbad, Escondido, and Oceanside/Vista units will hold a combined unit meeting on Thursday, Mar. 14 at the Leucadia Wastewater District offices, 1960 LaCosta Ave., Carlsbad from 10:00 to noon.

The featured speaker will be Jessica Jones from the Poseidon Resources Corp. She will discuss the development of the desalination plan which will be implemented soon in Carlsbad. It is anticipated that project costs will be approximately \$984 million. The last of 14 court challenges to the plant have been settled and construction will begin very soon. We encourage your attendance and invite you to bring a friend to become better informed about this exciting new venture in our community.

Carlsbad members, for further information, contact Carol Grimes-Gartland, at 760-729-027, or by email at clgspecced@sbcglobal.net.

Escondido members, for further information or if you are interested in carpooling, please call Yvon Dacayana at 760-749-7647.

Oceanside/Vista members, for more information, please call Kathie Rosvall at 760-598-5685.

*** Please Note Time Change and Venue**

San Dieguito Unit Mtg. Wednesday, Mar. 20 • 1:30 - 3 pm

The San Dieguito unit will meet on Wednesday, Mar. 20 from 1:30 - 3 pm at Belmont Village, 3535 Manchester Ave., Cardiff (please visit the League website for parking information).

Members will determine and define executable plans for the Unit's 2013 issue for Education & Advocacy, *educating ourselves on local city government operations, leading to potential community action to promote civic engagement.*

For more information, please call Anne Patton at 858-759-2715.

Book Group

Monday, Mar. 18 • 1:15 - 3 pm

The group will meet at the home of Cathy Greene, who will lead the discussion of Michael Sandel's book, *What Money Can't Buy*. Please call 760-730-9136 to RSVP.

Civil Discourse Group

Saturday, Mar. 23 • 10 am - 11:30 am

The next meeting will be held at the San Marcos County Library Branch, 2 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. The group will discuss the LWVUS publication, *Citizens Building Communities: The ABCs of Public Dialogue* and review our local plans for deliberative dialogue training and events. Please call Mary Thompson at 760-942-2458 for more information.

Please check out our new Facebook page. There are lots of good posts from all over. Thanks to League member Consuelo Martinez for putting League's "face" out there. You don't have to be a member to see it, but if you comment remember it will be seen by the public. Just use this url:



<https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersNorthCountySanDiego>

**Save the Date!
Mark Your Calendars!
June 8th is our
Annual Meeting
With a Special Guest
You Won't Want to Miss!
9:15 am to 12:00 pm
El Camino Country Club**

Life Moves Fast...Things Can Change!

Check the Master Calendar on the "Members' Only" Website To Stay Up To Date!

LWV North County Expands the Power of **One** Through **Collaboration!**



Restoring Respect Conference

Feb. 20, 2013

Left: San Diego Mayor Bob Filner, Guest Speaker, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist for the *Washington Post* Eugene Robinson, San Diego City Council President, Todd Gloria

Note: Mary Thompson LWVNCSD member in background



Above right: League Presidents Mary Crowley/Jeanne Brown welcome Glenn Smith, Bob Stern, Thad Kousser and Joe Matthews - Jan. 25.

Left: Dr. Carl Luna, **Restoring Respect** Organizer and Moderator with daughters and guest speaker. **Right:** Dr. Mary Lyons, USD President.



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.
- Student Memberships available

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):

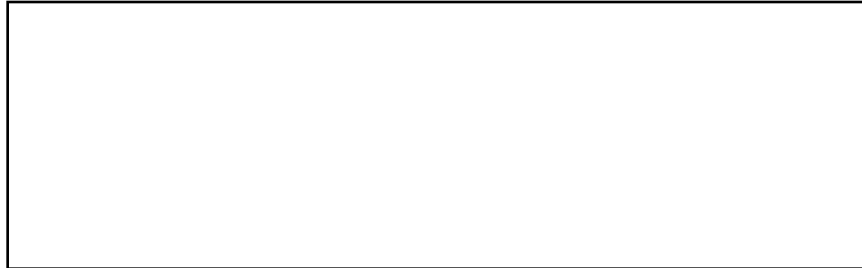
- Provide organizational support
- Participate in Voter Service
- Participate in Interest Groups:
 - ♦ Book Group
 - ♦ Civil Discourse
 - ♦ Education
 - ♦ Natural Resources
 - ♦ Women's Issues

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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March 2013

Volume III, No. 3

Inside this issue:

Calendar at a glance	Page 1
Sunshine Week	Page 1
Officers and Directors	Page 2
President’s Message	Page 2
The View from Here	Page 3
League Updates	Page 3
Program Planning 2013	Page 4
Voter Service Opportunities	Page 4
I & R Study Nearing End	Page 5
Bulletin Board	Page 6
Power of Collaboration	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...Pass It On!

“Civil Civic Dialogue (C2D) is a means to Discuss, Deliberate, and Decide AND NOT Disrespect, Disparage, or Deny (3D2).”

*~ 2013 Restoring Respect Conference, Feb. 20, 2013
San Diego, CA*

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