



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

JANUARY 2013 AT A GLANCE

Fri, Jan. 11 10 am - 12:00 pm	Board Meeting LWD Offices
Sat, Jan. 12 1 - 3 pm	General Meeting Dove Library, Carlsbad
Mon, Jan. 21 1:15 - 3:00 pm	Book Group Home of Anne Patton
Fri, Jan. 25 2 - 3:30 pm	Community Forum Dove Library Auditorium
Sat, Jan. 26 10 - 11:30 am	Civil Discourse Mtg San Marcos Library

~ Looking Ahead ~

Wed, Feb. 20 8 am - 12 pm	2nd Annual Restoring Respect Conference
Sat, Mar. 2 9 am - 12 pm	General Meeting Initiative & Referendum
Wed, Mar. 20 11:30 - 1 pm	Lunch with League San Diego City Auditor
Mon, May 6 6 - 8 pm	Community Forum U.S. Census
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

Gather Your Thoughts and Bring Your Ideas, It's Time for Program Planning!

As our state League begins preparations for the LWVC Convention in San Jose in May 2013, one crucial outcome of the convention starts now in local Leagues – to make our voices heard this month during Program Planning.

What do you want to see on the agenda for the League in California for the next two years? Do you have an idea that you think calls for a new study? Do we need to update one of our existing positions? What should our advocacy and community education priorities be? In a nutshell, what do you want to see on the agenda for the League in California for the upcoming biennium?

As a *valued member* of this *grassroots organization*, **YOU** have the *opportunity* and the *responsibility* to indicate the issues on which you believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money, and reputation. Use the program planning process as an opportunity to *think strategically about the work of the League* on the state level. Consider where there is the most need, where we will be most effective, and what activities best serve our mission. And consider the indirect impact of these choices, particularly on membership time and resources, fundraising, and our reputation – all of which are crucial to the future of our local League, as well as that of the LWVC.

Our **Program Planning General Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, January 12th from 1 - 3 pm** at the **Dove Library Meeting Room**, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad.

Prepare and Engage for this meeting:

Research current League positions online at:
<http://ca.lwv.org/issues/lwvc-positions>

Reflect

Propose

Deliberate

Find Consensus

Finally, consider joining Leaguers across the state at [the Convention](#) - all members are welcome. To become a delegate from our League, submit your name to President, Mary Crowley for consideration.

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! **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
Carol Sharpe • Nancy Telford • Mary Thompson

President's Message

by Mary Crowley, President



Happy New Year!

Where did 2012 go? I know why it flew by for LWV North County San Diego; weeks and weeks of preparation for our wonderfully successful collaboration with Mira

Costa College - *Democracy in the Balance?* and the busiest Voter Service election season in our history.

What's happening in 2013? As you will see in this VOTER, we're going to be busy. It doesn't happen too often but in the next several months we will be engaged in program planning for LWVC, our local league and our units – and, learning about the Initiative & Referendum Study. Why everything at once? Both program planning and study consensus questions have early deadlines to LWVC in order for the state board to have adequate lead time to prepare these issues for consideration at the state convention in May. We are a grass roots organization; both LWVC and LWVUS have to hear from us first before they can do their planning. It's this bottom-up approach that makes League such a vital organization.

How are we going to accomplish all this by the LWVC deadline at the end of March? **By your attendance at our two general meetings in January** – on the 12th for state and local program planning and the 25th for an outstanding panel discussion about the initiative & referendum process. In February, we encourage your attendance at the regularly scheduled unit meetings, where we will conclude the process with program planning by unit. At these important unit meetings in February, members will also hear from the I & R Study committee who will provide background information on the scope of the study and receive your feedback. Finally, on March 2nd a general consensus meeting will be held where our League will answer the study consensus questions and submit our report to LWVC.

This is who we are.

This is what we do.

***We encourage your participation and
we welcome your ideas.***

Mary



Do We Have to Take This Much Initiative?

Panel Discussion
Friday, January 25, 2013 from 2 – 3:30 PM



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

Experts on California's initiative and referendum process will discuss the role of money, influence, technology, the courts, and the legislature in California's version of direct democracy.

Panelists: **Thad Kousser**, Political Science Professor at UCSD, **Joe Mathews**, commentator and author of California Crack-up, **Glenn Smith**, Professor of Law, California Western School of Law, and **Robert Stern**, former president of the California Center for Governmental Studies. Moderator: **Trudy Schafer**, Senior Director for Program, League of Women Voters of California.

This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the LWV of San Diego,
LWV North County San Diego and
California Common Cause
For more information, go to www.lwvncsd.org
or call 760-736-1608



California
COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

Reforming California's Initiative & Referendum Process

Anne Omsted, I & R Study Committee Member

Did the recent election's initiatives leave you feeling more jaundiced than usual about the entire initiative process? Perhaps the \$372 million spent to support or oppose the eleven measures on the ballot caught your attention? Or did the widely distributed fact that 69% of that \$372 million came from 20 donors, both individuals and organizations, make you pause a moment to ponder California's politics?

League members often spend many hours every election cycle studying and explaining the various measures on the ballot. But our frustration about poorly written measures, misinformation from campaigns and the constant sapping of state budget integrity – all this cannot be corrected without changes in current law. The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has a proposed update on our current Initiative and Referendum positions that we will be studying at our unit meetings in February. This update hopes to sharpen our existing positions to enable us to be more effective in Sacramento. By visiting the LWVC website, you can read a very nice summary of the situation in the Study Guide (see link below).

As an example, consider the following: our current position says that "California should retain the referendum and direct initiative." The first question on the I & R study is "Should California retain the citizens' initiative and referendum process?"

More information will be coming to you soon about this study. Please plan to attend the February meeting of your unit to discuss this important position update.

LWVC Web page for the I & R Study:

<http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/studies/2011-initiative-and-referendum/index.html>

Don't miss the January 25th panel discussion at the Dove Library in Carlsbad:
Do We Have to Take this Much Initiative?
See the previous page for details.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Bring a friend.

Annual Fiscal Report • 2011-12

Martha Cox, Treasurer 2009-12

In compliance with Article VIII, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the LWVNCSD, the following information offers members an at-a-glance recap of fiscal activity for the 2011-12 fiscal year:

Beg Balance 7/1/11

Checking	21,959.60
Savings (CD)	10,242.08
<u>Education Fund</u>	<u>3,092.68</u>
Total Assets	\$35,294.36

End Balance 6/30/12

Checking	27,396.76
Savings (CD)	10,273.98
<u>Education Fund</u>	<u>2,323.35</u>
Total Assets	\$39,994.09

Additionally, LWVNCSD is compliant in all mandated reporting as a non-profit organization with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts Office, the Secretary of State, and the IRS and FTB tax filings for the fiscal year 2011-12. A fiscal review was conducted by 2nd VP Barbara Lorenzen in preparation for the transfer of records to the incoming treasurer, Arlene Meadows, in July 2012. Barbara made suggestions for additional record-keeping which will help us in our filings when our conversion to a 501c3 organization (non-profit and tax deductible) from our 501c4 status (non-profit and not tax deductible) takes place in the spring of 2013.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your treasurer. This is an organization that thrives on the dedication and commitment of its members, complemented by the generosity of many individuals who ensure its fiscal health to achieve our collective mission. Sincere thanks to all.

Mark Your Calendars!

The 2nd Annual

Restoring Respect Conference

Wed., Feb. 20, 2013 • 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Register online at: <http://www.sandiego.edu/restoringrespect/registration.php>

Keynote Speaker:

Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist

Panelists:

Jeff Light, Martha Barnette
Marty Block, Maria Nieto Senour

SAN DIEGO COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY BACKS AMENDMENT TO OVERTURN "CITIZENS UNITED" DECISION

Reprinted from EastCountyMagazine.org

December 7, 2012 (San Diego)--In a stunning unanimous vote Tuesday, the San Diego City Council supported a Constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which allowed virtually unlimited corporate donations to political campaigns. The vote was 8-0 to limit the power of money in politics, with one absent councilmember not voting.

The resolution asks Congress to begin the process to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court's 2010 decision *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* "so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech."

Councilmember Marti Emerald introduced the resolution, calling it "an important message to send to Washington D.C." Council President Todd Gloria said "the Citizens United case has affected our local campaign finance laws and we do need this action."

The San Diego resolution was proposed by MOP (Money Out of Politics), a grassroots coalition led by Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and Women Occupy San Diego. San Diego joins over 350 cities and 12 states that have passed similar resolutions.

Kathay Feng, California Common Cause Executive Director, praised the action by the council, saying, "San Diego, the eighth largest city in America, has joined the national effort to reverse this unjust decision. The whole amendment process and the national coalition are gaining strength, gaining momentum."

In 2010, The US Supreme Court ruled in the case *Citizens United Inc. v. Federal Election Commission* that corporations had the same rights of free speech as living citizens, as well as the right to raise and spend any amount of money in an election. The decision wiped out state campaign finance laws all across the country and opened the floodgates to vast amounts of money pouring into the political process.

John Smith, Common Cause organizer in Southern California, congratulated Councilmember Marti Emerald for her leadership in bringing this resolution to the San Diego Council. He also applauded the grassroots effort behind the resolution, which was led by the organization Money Out of Politics, and supported by Common Cause and the League of Women Voters. Said Smith, "This was a perfect example of how a small group of citizens can work with local government to achieve a goal. Now look for other cities and other states to realize the danger of *Citizens United* to our political system and to get behind the amendment."

"This is really exciting to see traditionally conservative San Diego take this stand," said MOP co-founder Pam Page. "This puts San Diego in step with other city and state governments who are calling for action to restore our democracy." The MOP coalition will continue working to raise awareness and build the movement toward passage of an amendment establishing that corporations do not have the rights of people and campaign contributions are not free speech. #

BROADER MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA (BMENA) INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP

The Broader Middle East and North Africa nations include Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, West Bank/Gaza and Yemen.

For the first time since 2004, the United States assumed the G-8 Presidency for 2012 and, in that role, has co-chair responsibilities for the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA) initiative. The BMENA initiative is a multilateral effort to promote cooperation between the G-8 and BMENA governments and civil society to advance reform efforts throughout the region. The United States invited Tunisia to serve as BMENA co-chair, marking the first time that two democracies have led the initiative.

To assist the government co-chairs in developing themes, agendas, and concrete efforts to promote reform in the MENA region, each country selects an NGO partner. **LWVUS accepted the invitation to partner with the United States as its 2012 BMENA Initiative NGO partner in 2011.** NGO partners coordinated closely with each other and with the co-chair governments in support of BMENA activities.

The role of the League was to organize ten preparatory meetings in eight different countries between April and October 2012, in preparation for the [G-8 BMENA Initiative's 9th Forum for the Future](#), which took place in Tunis, the capital of the Republic of Tunisia, on December 12-13, 2012. League efforts have been coordinated by a team of three, headed by Zaida Arguedas. Seventy-five members of civil society and private sector representing 23 countries converged in Tunis to discuss the draft document—the Final Declaration—that was discussed by hundreds of representatives of G-8 and regional governments. The Final Declaration included important pronouncements on the year's BMENA themes: women's empowerment, economic governance and entrepreneurship, and freedom of expression and association.

The highlight of the Forum, without a doubt, was the participation of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other high-level U.S. representatives.

For more information on the BMENA Initiative and League's role in it, click on:

<http://www.lwv.org/blog/final-bmena-forum-future-around-corner>



January/February Bulletin Board

Unit Meetings & Events



Interest Groups

Please Note:

All Unit Meetings have been cancelled for the month of January in order to accommodate the **General Program Planning Meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 12th from 1 - 3 pm** at the Dove Library Meeting Room, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. Please refer to the article on page 1 of this issue for more information. We hope to see you all at Program Planning. Unit Meetings will resume their regular schedule in February for unit program planning and a presentation by the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee. February meeting dates are indicated below, so mark your calendars.

Carlsbad Unit Mtg.

Thursday, Feb. 21 • 10 am - 12 pm

The Carlsbad unit will meet on Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Leucadia Wastewater District offices, 1960 LaCosta Ave., Carlsbad from 10:00 to noon.

The topics will be unit program planning and a presentation by the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee.

Please contact Carol Grimes-Gartland at 760-729-0278 for information.

Escondido Unit Mtg.

Friday, Feb. 15 • 10 am - 12 pm

The Escondido unit will meet on Friday, Feb. 15 at the Joslyn Senior Center, 210 Park Ave., Room 4, Escondido from 10:00 to noon.

The topics will be unit program planning and a presentation by the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee.

For more information, please call Yvon Dacayana at 760-749-7647.

Oceanside/Vista Unit Mtg.

Monday, Feb. 11 • 1 - 2:30 pm*

The Oceanside/Vista unit will meet on Monday, Feb. 11 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm at the Buena Vista Audubon Center, 2202 S. Coast Hwy., Oceanside.

The topics will be unit program planning and a presentation by the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee.

For more information, please call Kathie Rosvall at 760-598-5685.

** Please Note Meeting Time Change*

San Dieguito Unit Mtg.

Wednesday, Feb. 20 • 1:30 - 3 pm

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

The topics will be unit program planning and a presentation by the Initiative and Referendum Study Committee.

For more information, please call Anne Patton at 760-759-2715.

Book Group

Monday, Jan. 21 • 1:15 - 3 pm

The group will discuss "*Destiny of the Republic*" by Candace Millard at the home of Anne Patton. Please call 760-759-2715 to RSVP.

Civil Discourse Group

Saturday, Jan. 26 • 10 am - 11:30 am

The next meeting will be held at the San Marcos County Library Branch, 2 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. We will continue work on our 2013 roadmap. Please call Mary Thompson at 760-942-2458 for more information.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

New Concept

Do you have an idea, curiosity, or concern about a League-appropriate issue? Consider meeting with others who share your passion for this topic. This would be a discussion group that may or may not evolve into taking action.

Think of the group as issue-based, not one to continue forever. Your participation would last as long as your interest does.

If this sparks an interest, please contact Barbara Lorenzen, who will compile a list of names and interests and coordinate getting people together. barblorenzenlwv@gmail.com or 760-305-7842.

Voter Service All Year Long

If Voter Service is why you joined League and it continues to be your main area of interest, Voter Service Director Cathy Greene would like to know. If you like researching, writing or presenting, your participation is welcomed. Contact Cathy at csgreene49@aol.com.

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



LWVNCSD President, Mary Crowley (left), with long-time LWV members: retiring Carlsbad City Council Member, Ann Kulchin (center), and newly-elected County Supervisor, Dave Roberts (right) at the reception for Council Member Kulchin on her 32 years of service to the citizens of Carlsbad.



Welcome New Members
 Allen & Marsha Bryan
 Jane Craighhead
 Craig Greene
 Jo Anne SawyerKnoll
 Roger Manning
 Brigid McDonald
 Genie Woods
Welcome Back
 Marilyn Graber



League Engaged in Our Community: Many League members worked at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Dec. 2 and 13 helping with Holiday Food Basket preparation - a project of the Community Resource Center, supporting families in need. Thanks to all Leaguers and friends who helped at the fairgrounds and with food donations.

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
Post Office Box 131272
Carlsbad, CA 92013-1272*

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January 2013

Volume III, No. 1

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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

"To prejudge other men's notions before we have looked into them is not to show their darkness but to put out our own eyes"

~ John Locke

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