



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**

JANUARY 2010

Voter

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CALENDAR

Feb 10, Wed	12 noon	League Board meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Feb 17, Wed	1:30 - 3:30 pm	Jail Study Update, at Arlene Block's home, (see pg 4)
Mar 10, Wed	12 noon	League Board meeting, at Joan Hogan's home
Mar 17, Wed		Program - State Budget Update - Details TBA
Mar 18, Thur	5:00 - 8:45 pm	Tri-League Lasagna Supper
Mar 27, Sat		LWV County Convention
Apr 21, Wed		Land Use presentation
Apr 24, Sat	9 am - noon	LWV County Ballot Measure Training, Hollenbeck Palms

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SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY!!! High School Registration Project

LWVUS has received a grant to fund a study of high school registration methods. This research-based project will help the LWV understand the most effective way to register high school students. Research findings will be used to develop a new "best practices for voter registration" booklet for local Leagues nationwide. Participating Leagues will receive a pass-thru grant to support the work on this project.

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School was judged to be eligible for project implementation, based on its multi-ethnic student population. The LWV PVP board approved our League's participation. Peninsula High has now been selected as one of the 100 project schools, nationwide. We will be forming a task force to implement the project's specified registration plan. If you are interested in working on this project between March and June of 2010, please contact Jo-Anne Waller (544-9263) or Nancy Mahr (377-0735).


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all who came to the Program Planning meeting on January 27. This is a key activity for League members – the “grass roots” at work. Thanks also to Arlene Block and Elaine Asch (our co-VPs for Program) for organizing the discussion, and to Peggy Pages for opening her home for the meeting. And I can't forget the cooks who created tasty soups, salads, appetizers, and dessert. The next program stops are the conventions – local, County and LWVUS.

Not to be repetitious, but it's not too late to apply for the new Redistricting Commission. The commission offers an opportunity for informed women – LWV women – to get involved in a very important activity for California. The commission needs good women of any political party – or of none. The act states that commissioners are to have strong analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, and have an appreciation of California's diverse demographics and geography. The application is online at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov/; the full application process is done electronically (online). The application period closes February 12, 2010. Think about applying – or encourage someone you esteem to apply.

SB 810 (Leno), the historic single-payer health care bill for California, is moving forward this legislative session. The bill has passed the Senate, but will need our support as it moves through the Assembly and to the Governor. Let's make this the year the Governor signs single-payer. Visit the OneCareNow Web site for details of the bill and for activities to promote successful passage – www.onecarenow.org.

Health care, the state budget, the Supreme Court and campaign finance, the economy . . . this will be another busy and important year for the state and the country. Stay informed, and set aside some time to be a part of League activities.

The League's 90th birthday will be on Valentine's Day,  February 14th. Invite a friend to join. There is much to do as we celebrate past accomplishments, plan our political future, and have fun along the way.

Nancy & Linda

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

The Palos Verdes Peninsula League will be celebrating its 54th birthday this year and we are pleased to recognize our 50+ year members:

Tres Mennis
Joan Hogan
Elise Church
Scottie Wuerker
Barbara Gleghorn
Edith Mayerson

FOR 90 YEARS...LEAGUE MEMBERS HAVE CONTINUED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Founding From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

The 1920's Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA.

The 1930's The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching change to the League.

The 1940's The 1944 convention made major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members, rather than a federation of state leagues, and abolishing the department system of managing the various facets of the League program.

The 1950's The witch hunt period of the early fifties inspired the League to undertake a two-year community education program focusing on the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.

The 1960's In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing.

The 1970's The 1974 convention also amended the bylaws to allow men to join

the League as full voting members.

The 1980's The League was in the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982 and contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act of 1986.

The 1990's The League launched "Take Back the System", a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992.

The 21st Century The League was instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. The League worked to renew the Voting Rights Act, and filed a number of amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX.

Education Fund & Overseas Ed Fund In the late 1940s and 1950s, the League established two 501(c)(3) educational organizations that, like the LWVUS, are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, but, unlike the LWVUS, also can accept contributions that are deductible for income tax purposes.

Conclusion While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: **The organization has three purposes to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.**

ONGOING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Dear League Member:

Interesting and interested people

Doing interesting work and

Having interesting dialogue....

Does this sound like a group that might interest you?

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying....join the LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people. (For those of you who missed our Program Planning meeting this week, it was all those things.)

You will be able to:

- build your leadership skills
- learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community
- help to set the direction for the LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula
- expand your commitment to the League
- raise your visibility

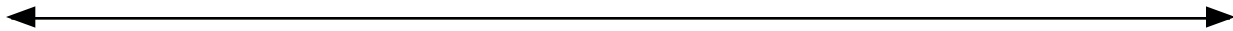
If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact the members of our Nominating Committee:

Mary Ellen Barnes (Chair) 310-833-8083

Judith Webb 310-833-5864

Charlene Chang 310-377-4713

Jump On Board With Us...Our Nominating Committee will soon be meeting.



COUNTY JAIL STUDY REPORT RECIDIVISM

Recidivism usually means a return to jail or prison. It is sometimes measured in re-arrests and sometimes in reconvictions. It is usually expressed as a percentage of those released from incarceration who are rearrested or reconvicted within three years after "getting out". In California, inmates who are released from state prison are often put on parole supervision and many are re-incarcerated for technical parole violations, such as failing to report to their parole officers. There is disagreement as to whether these individuals should be classified as parole violators returned to custody to complete their sentences, or as recidivists. Despite these difficulties in definition, recidivism percentages or rates can give us an idea of whether imprisonment can lead to rehabilitation – to crime-free lives – and, if so, what types of experiences in jail or prison might be helpful in achieving rehabilitation.

The L. A. County Jail System has a high recidivism rate – about 70% -- but persists in efforts to reduce this figure. Our County League Jail Study committee is surveying the education and rehabilitation programs offered, and will include a discussion of them in our study report. We find it fascinating to learn about what is offered and how inmates respond. We hope local Leagues will find all this of interest also. We are planning to distribute Jail Study packets at our March 2010 convention.

From LWV/LA County Jail Study, Co-Chair Betsey Coffman

DON'T MISS OUR JAIL STUDY UPDATE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS.....



ROBERT E. COFFEY

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

January 6, 2010

Dear Judith,

During the holidays I visited the Point Vicente Interpretive Center to see the wonderful quilt the League of Women Voters donated in Helen's honor. In fact, I have subsequently visited three additional times accompanying family members and a friend to see this beautiful piece of art. I am deeply grateful to the League members for arranging for this beautiful and fitting tribute to Helen. Both the League and the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (and Los Serenos) meant much to her, and she would be extremely happy if she knew of this special recognition.

Each of our four children (now adults, of course) and several of our grandkids have now seen the quilt and all thought it was beautiful. On behalf of our family and myself, thank you very much. I would be grateful if you could convey our thanks to the local League members.

I confess I choked up some the first two times I saw this tribute. It touched me deeply that those who Helen cared about so much returned that caring. Thank you.

Warm regards,

ARE THE WATER WARS OVER?

The rains came in December but not enough to end the drought, so water continues to be a hot topic in California. Many would argue that water will always be a hot topic as long as population continues to grow and economic development continues in current forms. Many had hoped that El Nino would bring lots of rain to the south coast basin, but experts are still cautious about the amount of rain we will actually see. In addition, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta continues to exhibit the symptoms of a dying ecosystem, in part due to water extractions sent south.

In this context of drought, increasing demand for water, and a declining Delta, the legislature passed a package of water bills at the end of 2009. It is important to note that this package did not go through the usual committee hearings process. Rather, it was crafted behind closed doors by the Senate and Assembly leadership and the governor. In many respects, these bills represent a major development in water policy for California. However, in order for the package to be implemented, it will be necessary for the electorate to approve an \$11 billion bond measure in November. We will take a brief look at these bills in this issue and bring you more information as the campaign for the water bond measure develops this spring and summer.

Delta Governance: The legislation reforms governance for the Delta by consolidating some of the current governance structures. The legislation establishes two twin goals for the Delta: ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability. These goals would be attained by the creation of a new Delta Stewardship council to create and implement a plan for the Delta. It would also create a Delta Conservancy that would be able to acquire lands and to work toward Delta ecosystem restoration.

Groundwater Monitoring: At the present time, California does not monitor or manage groundwater extractions, despite over pumping of many basins. The water package establishes a state-wide groundwater monitoring program but one that is voluntary rather than compulsory. It appears that the legislature has established that groundwater monitoring would be a good thing but has not provided a requirement for monitoring or money to pay for it.

Water Conservation: Another part of the package deals with urban and agricultural water conservation. It establishes a goal of reducing urban per capita water use by 20% by 2020. It also requires that agricultural water users implement efficient water management practices that include measurement of water use and pricing structures. The bill also requires that the Department of Water Resources develop incentives for sustainable water management and also develop plans for alternative water supplies (e.g., brackish water desalination and stormwater recovery).

Water Bond: In addition to the water package, the legislature passed a bill to place a water bond on the November 2010 ballot. The proposed bond initiative

ARE THE WATER WARS OVER?

will total just over \$11 billion and will be used for a number of water related projects including the following: groundwater protection, water recycling/water conservation, Delta sustainability, water supply reliability, and drought relief.

As noted above, this package was essentially put together behind closed doors by the "Gang of Five" (the governor and the leaders in the assembly and the senate). The normal process of legislative hearings was circumvented. Nonetheless, the legislation is important and, in the minds of some, a big step forward for California. In order for any of the provisions of this legislation to move toward implementation, the voters will have to approve the \$11 billion bond measure in November.

Many will recall the battle for the Peripheral Canal, which was defeated by the voters in the early 1980's. That particular battle pitted northern California against southern California with voters in the north overwhelmingly defeating the measure. It is likely that the battle over this bond measure will be rather more complicated than the battle over the Peripheral Canal. This time around, there will be an element of a north-south split. But there will also likely be strong resistance to the bond measure from citizens, farming interests, and businesses in the Delta. Many in the Delta see this legislation and the bond measure as detrimental to the Delta ecosystem.

In addition, it is already clear that the environmental community will be split on the bond measure. Some large environmental groups have already come out in support of the measure while others have indicated their opposition. An unknown factor will be the state of California's economy as the year progresses. Last year's budget is already showing a deficit of more than \$18 billion which will have to be covered. It is possible that voters will be wary of approving further indebtedness if the financial status of state government is precarious.

The take-away message of all of this is the following: the legislation passed in 2009 is important and provides a basis for further development of water policy in the state. However, almost every one can find fault with the water package and it is not clear at this point if the voters will vote for the bond measure. Thus, it is quite clear that the California water wars are far from over. An important part of the problem is that there is not enough water to meet all demands at current patterns of usage. At some point in the near future, we will be faced with hard choices and may have to decide about trade-offs among different kinds of water needs.

John D. Sullivan, LWV/LAC Natural Resources

VISIT TO PORT OF LOS ANGELES (POLA)

by the Land Use Committee 01/15/201



At the POLA we met with Arley Baker, Deputy Executive Director, Communications and Dina Aryan-Zahlan, Chief of Design, Engineering Division. Both answered questions comfortably and volunteered much of the information to follow.

POLA (also called the Harbor Department), is a proprietary department generating all its own revenue. It operates under a State Lands Commission trust. The mayor of Los Angeles appoints the members of the Harbor Commission, the governing body of the port. The Harbor Department does report to the LA City Council (CC). Contracts greater than 3-5 million must be approved by the CC. However, they cannot overturn a Harbor Commission decision but can ask for a review by the Trade, Commerce and Tourism committee for the city. Besides running the Harbor department, the POLA functions as a landlord for all the property under its purview. It controls seven marinas, commercial real estate and funds the Cabrillo Aquarium and the Maritime Museum.

The Land Use Committee went to visit the POLA to ask questions about the Los Angeles Waterfront Project whose final EIR was approved by the Board of Harbor Commissioners on September 30, 2009. The San Pedro Waterfront Program is "a major 400-acre waterfront infrastructure and revitalization initiative to create a vibrant, world-class waterfront for the community of San Pedro, the City of Los Angeles and the people of California."

The original plan to revitalize the port was called the Bridge to Breakwater Plan and designed to phase in over 30 years. This ambitious project scared the community and with a new mayor (Villaraigosa) and new Harbor Commission who hired a new executive director, Geraldine Knatz, the project has been scaled back to 10 years.

The new management decided to forge ahead with the infrastructure necessary for further development. e.g., improvements to the Inner Harbor that are not part of the EIR are already moving forward. The World Cruise Center will have new solar panels on its roof to generate electricity and electrical outlets are being installed so that ships can turn off their diesel motors while in port.

The proposed project includes revitalizing the existing Ports O' Call through redevelopment and new commercial development including a conference center. This area will be contracted out to developers.

The Land Use Committee also asked about health impacts and community concerns in keeping with our mission to review the environmental, social and economic impacts of major public and private development. We will have much more to report at our April 21st meeting. Meanwhile the POLA is holding a LA Waterfront Kick-off Public Meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010 from 6-8 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, 601 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro 90731. We'll be there. Please join us!

Cindy Kondon, Land Use Committee

LEAGUE LAUNCHES 2010 SURVEY ON DEMOCRACY

2010 will shape the political landscape for the next decade. The League is asking supporters to complete its 2010 Survey on Democracy, available online [here](#). We've already received thousands of responses; add your voice today!

Survey on [January League-Voice](#). You could partner with a League member who has a computer to complete the form if you like.

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES:

California State Auditor

Applications for Citizens
Redistricting Commission
www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org

LWV California Ed Fund provides statewide propositions, local candidates and issues, media links, and background materials

LA County Registrar-Recorder

www.lavote.net Election calendar, polling places look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials.

Easy Voter Guide

www.easyvoter.org
Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

Secretary of State www.ss.ca.gov

Official text of ballot measures, candidates' statements, maps, dates, election returns

CA Legislative Analyst


www.lao.ca.gov
Analysis of all ballot measures

CA Voter Foundation

www.calvoter.org Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

CA Budget Project www.cbp.org

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures



2010 Survey on Democracy

1. How likely are you to vote in the 2010 midterm elections?*

Very likely
 Likely
 Somewhat likely
 Not Likely

2. Which of the following issues would you most like to see addressed in the 2010 elections? Use the arrows to arrange your preference, with the issue you'd most like to see addressed at the top.*

1)	Campaign finance reform	↕
2)	Education	↕ ↕
3)	Energy policy/Environment	↕ ↕
4)	Ethics in government	↕ ↕
5)	Immigration	↕ ↕
6)	Jobs/Economy	↕ ↕
7)	Health care	↕ ↕
8)	Voting rights	↕ ↕
9)	War in Iraq/ Afghanistan	↕

3. How concerned are you about the impact of voter identification laws on participation in our elections?

-- Please Select -- ↕

4. Do you think that states should be able to limit voter registration drives by organizations like the League?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

5. Thinking about the last election in which you voted, how would you rate your experience at the polls?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

6. How optimistic or pessimistic are you that the federal government will conduct an inclusive 2010 Census that counts every everyone residing in the United States?

Very optimistic	Optimistic	Not very optimistic	Pessimistic
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Have you seen stories in your local newspaper or on television about the 2010 Census?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

8. Are you planning on completing a 2010 Census form for your household when it arrives?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

9. Do you think the redistricting process is fair and balanced, or does it give an unfair advantage to the incumbent party in each congressional district?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

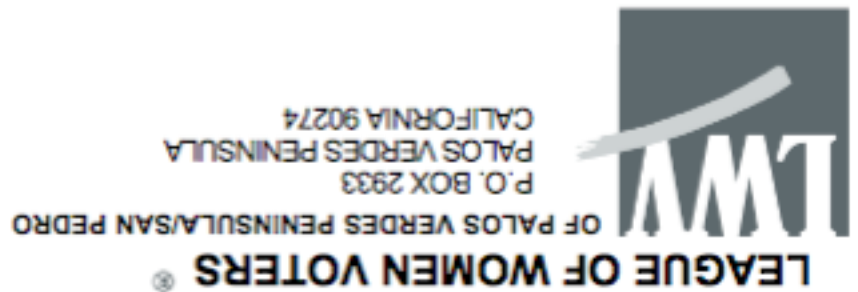
10. Do you support or oppose requiring redistricting at the state level to be open and transparent?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Support	Somewhat oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Would you participate in a League-sponsored program that provides the opportunity to apply Census data to map an alternative voting district that reflects the diversity of your community?*

-- Please Select -- ↕

Finished? Submit your Survey



* LWV/PVP/SP *

has an excellent, informative website:
www.lwvpvp.org

thanks to BETTY RIEDMAN
& PALOS VERDES ON THE NET

for providing & hosting this web site as
a public service to our community

Please visit our website for more information