



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

APRIL 2010

Voter

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CALENDAR

Apr 14, Wed	12 noon	League Board meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Apr 21, Wed	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Land Use presentation, Linda Herman's home
Apr 24, Sat	9 am - noon	LWV County Ballot Measure Training, Hollenbeck Palms 573 S. Boyle Ave, L.A.,(located on Boyle Ave. between I-5 and 101 Freeways, just east of downtown L.A.)
May 19, Wed	7:00 pm	Ballot Measures , Hesse Park
June 5, Sat	10 am - 2:00 pm	PVP Local Convention, Los Angeles Yacht Club in San Pedro

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*WELCOME TO
SPRING EVENTS*

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As you peruse the current Voter you will very quickly come across Jo-Anne's summary of the statewide ballot initiatives we will be voting on June 8th. Last month's Voter reviewed Proposition 15 otherwise known as the Political Reform Act of 1974: California Fair Elections Act of 2008. The proposition, a legislative state statute that would establish a publicly-financed voluntary pilot project for Secretary of State campaigns in 2013 and 2018, focuses on campaign financing, always an issue that is front and center for the League of Women Voters. Nationally, we recently learned of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United that allows corporations to make unlimited independent expenditures in candidate elections, changing the foundation on which decades of congressional enactments on campaign finance are built.

As we take note of these issues, it is clear that the battles the League of Women Voters has engaged in over the years continue to be with us. It is clearly important that we remain energized to lobby on behalf of fair and clean elections, health care for all, and be informed and active on the local issues that make a difference for us and our community.

Locally, your land use committee will be reporting on issues of local concern (see page 5) In keeping with the action priorities approved at last year's local convention, members have been monitoring local land use decisions. They also met with the L.A. Port's Communications and Legislative Affairs Director with the goal of learning more precisely what plans are underway with regards to port development. Join us and learn more about these plans when we meet on Wednesday, April 21.

Remember to also set aside time to attend the presentation on the ballot measures scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Hesse Park. Although thankfully, the ballot is not too long this time, the issues are of importance and others who know of your involvement in the League may well turn to you to find out more about them.

In conclusion, it is comforting to know that we are part of a community that shares a passion for creating positive change on the local, state and national levels.

Linda and Nancy

Long time member, Muriel Kiefer, died Monday, March 29, 2010. She had been active in League for many years, served in various positions and chaired many studies and had always given of her time and attention with great diligence and enthusiasm. I first met Muriel many more years ago than I like to think about, on a League study on Red China, the subject being whether or not it should be accepted by the community of UN nations. Over many years that followed, Muriel gave her time, her enthusiasm and her respect to all that LWV represented. Despite growing ill health, she never wavered in her devotion. We will miss her.

Ginny Robertson

JUNE 2010 STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

(Part 2)

As of this writing there are still 5 ballot measures on the June Primary Ballot. Propositions 13, 14, and 15 were placed on the ballot by the Legislature and were discussed in last month's bulletin. Proponents of Propositions 16 & 17 gathered sufficient signatures to qualify their propositions for the ballot. To qualify for the ballot, initiative constitutional amendments need 694,354 signatures and initiative state statutes need 433,971 signatures. Below is a brief description of Propositions 16 & 17.

Prop. 16: CALIFORNIA NEW TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL PUBLIC ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS ACT (JUNE 2010)

Proposition 16 is an initiative constitutional amendment that would require local governments to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters in their jurisdiction before providing electricity to new customers or expanding such service to new territories if any public funds or bonds are involved. It also requires a two-thirds vote of the voters in their jurisdiction to provide electricity through a community choice program if any public funds or bonds are involved. Under a community choice program local governments may purchase blocks of power to sell to residents, which means that cities and counties can become competitors to private utilities. Proponents say that people who are going to pay the bill have a right to vote on it. Opponents say this measure is aimed directly against a movement to enable municipalities to offer renewable green power to their residents in competition with private utilities.

Prop. 17: CALIFORNIA CONTINUOUS COVERAGE AUTO INSURANCE DISCOUNT ACT (2010)

Proposition 17 is an initiative state statute that will allow insurance companies in California to give what are known as "persistency discounts". These discounts may be given to drivers who have had continuous auto insurance coverage. Under current California law (Prop. 103), an insurance company can offer a "persistency discount" to its own customers but auto insurers can't offer that same discount to new customers who had continuous coverage for some period of time but from a different insurance company. The proposition also may disqualify a driver from qualifying for a discount when there are lapses in coverage due to non-payment of premiums or late premiums. Proponents argue that the initiative will increase competition, which will lower rates and result in reduced premiums while providing California drivers with more options and choices in their coverage. Opponents believe the real impact of the initiative will be to charge more, or deny coverage altogether, when an insurance applicant has a gap in coverage. They see this proposition as an attack on Proposition 103 which gave an elected insurance commissioner the authority to approve property and casualty rates before they go into effect.

Jo-Anne Waller



HOUSE FINALLY PASSES COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

"Monumental, Historic and Transforming," Says League

Washington, D.C. - Statement from Mary G. Wilson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

"Today's votes by the U.S. House of Representatives mark an historic milestone in American political history. The path that began with Social Security and continued with Medicare is reaching fruition with this health care legislation. Comprehensive health care reform will begin to undo decades of neglect and inaction that has left millions of Americans uninsured and at risk.

"This legislation is a monumental step in the fight for social justice.

"Too many citizens lack adequate health insurance coverage and rising costs threaten everyone. Passage of comprehensive health care legislation greatly expands coverage to include millions more Americans; protects the coverage that currently delivers care to most; reduces costs over the long term; and accomplishes these goals at a reasonable cost.

"It would be difficult to overstate the importance of today's actions, and we commend our elected representatives for standing up for Americans and having the courage to do what needs to be done to confront the health care crisis in our country. The League congratulates the House leadership on a closely-fought victory.

"We can expect transformational reform from these bills. Access to health care will be extended to all Americans. Mechanisms to control rising costs will be put in place. And the marketplace will be expanded and safeguards put in place to protect consumers.

"Truly, this legislation is monumental, historic and transforming.

"Today we took the critical step in dealing with the current health care crisis. Tomorrow, many Americans will wake up to a new week and a new future that looks a great deal more promising."

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH LAND USE ON THE PENINSULA & AT THE PORT?

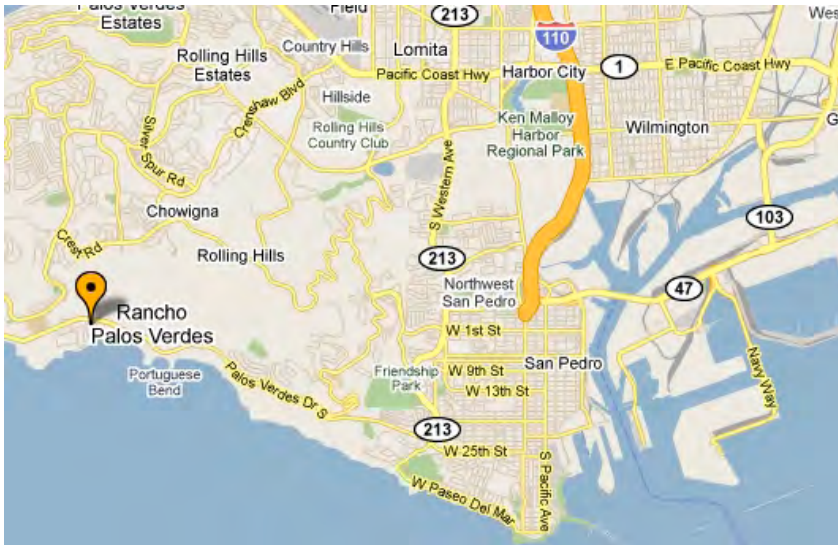
League presentation: Local Development, Port of Los Angeles plans, Annenberg Center

Wednesday, April 21 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Home of Linda Herman
28070 Ella Road, RPV Tel: 310-541-3373

Last year, we reported on development plans approved by the City of Rolling Hills Estates in the Peninsula Center area. We plan to give a brief update on the current status of those plans.

Over the last several months our committee has also been monitoring progress on expansion plans at the Port of Los Angeles. We are looking forward to providing information on the project, including the Cruise Terminal, plans for the waterfront in general, as well as their hope for the eventual redevelopment of Ports of Call. The Final Proposed Project Summary including recommendations from staff was presented in September, 2009, with implementation guidelines made available later in the year. Committee members attended a public hearing in early February attended by over 300 from the community where the plan was presented to the public. Community input has been ongoing for some time but there appears to be deep concern on the part of some

that more community input is required.



Our interest in the port has also spurred a desire to become more knowledgeable about the implementation of the Clean Trucks Program which was implemented at both the L.A. and Long Beach ports. The American Trucking Association contested the Los Angeles program as it believes the port is trying to impose labor controls

on the trucking industry, which was deregulated by the federal government in 1980. Additionally, it opposes a mandate that requires all drivers to be employees of trucking companies by 2013. Although the Port won the appeal by the American Trucking Assoc, there was to be a March hearing on this decision which we will report on at the meeting.

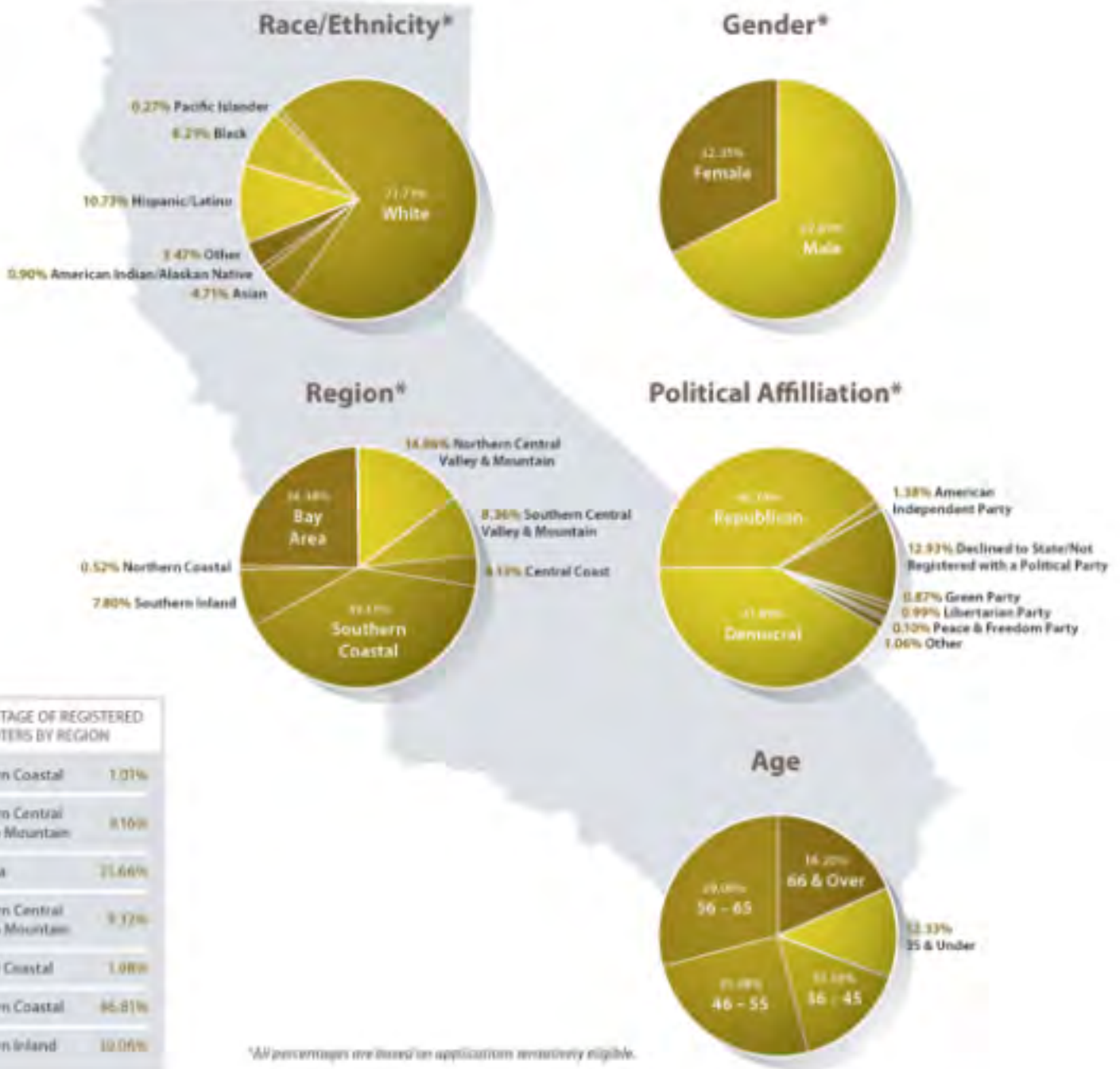
Plans for development of the Annenberg Center will also be touched upon.

Land Use Committee



FINAL APPLICATION NUMBERS ANNOUNCED
FOR CALIFORNIA'S FIRST CITIZENS
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION!

NEARLY 31,000 TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY!
 The chart below shows the demographics of the tentatively eligible applicants by gender, ethnicity, political affiliation, region, and age



UNITED NATIONS FORUM

On March 1, 2010 the UN and the Global Creative Forum sponsored a day-long program at the Hammer Museum in West Los Angeles. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon opened the program with a conversation with Michael Douglas (UN Messenger of Peace). The focus of the forum was to interest the entertainment industry to consider stories to highlight the work of the UN especially in the area of empowering women. The UN asked for help in reaching a world audience through stories that would help the UN reach its Millennium goals of world peace and prosperity.

The day consisted of three panels discussing the role of the UN and Hollywood, empowering women and some new cutting edge solutions. Secretary Ban Ki-moon spoke about his particular interest in and support of women. He has appointed twelve women to head major divisions—areas that up to now have always been held by men. He spoke about his own desire to make the UN more available for filmmakers & especially asked that Hollywood consider stories that concerned climate change, HIV, Weapons of Mass Destruction and the discrimination of women and particularly the violence against women. Among the statistics cited were the facts that 70-80% of women globally were employed in farming. His development goals for the short term (until 2015) included getting world support for global climate issues, the elimination of malaria (this year), balancing development for the third world, eliminating hunger for one billion and diminishing sickness which results in child and adult mortality rates which are preventable with simple interventions. He also feels a key is women's empowerment since improvement in their lives results in community progress. Africa remains a major concern and the spread of nuclear weapons is another problem.

The first panel discussed how stories can educate masses. For example, few Americans are aware of the millions killed in the Congo—but individual stories can move an audience to understanding. Mira Sorvino, an actress, spoke about the increasing problem with human trafficking and its increase in the United States & the world. She would like to see laws enforced and made more severe. Others spoke about the problem of some UN soldiers in the Congo raping women along with the local soldiers. (Culturally rape is not seen as a severe crime by many countries.) Other speakers spoke about the increase of HIV in women 25-34 years of age and the truth about use of coal for energy and its environmental impact.

The second panel focused on empowering women. Dr. Gayle, CEO of Care, spoke about the impact of poverty on women. For each year of education given to women, the income of families improves by 10-20 %. Margaret Chan, Director-General of World Health gave several statistics. For most of the population the hierarchy of importance is men, slaves, animals and lastly women. About 15% of the 3.5 billion women of the world live in developed countries. 85% live in poverty. Women do the most work of any group and are held in the lowest esteem. Other speakers spoke about the increase and protection of child pornographers as well as the slavery of women. Solutions to some of the problems included in-kind donations (such as shoes), and looking at banking and money profits from drugs, terrorists and slavery. The impact of the internet in exposing governments and groups in these behaviors is having an effect.

The last panel discussed some newer solutions. Stevie Wonder brought some of his talking aids & new technical aids for the blind. Ray Chambers (envoy for Malaria) spoke about his work in getting mosquito nets to all that needed them on track. He expects all populations to be covered by this year end. A plea was made for film equipment to be donated to poor countries to help in explaining aids—(for example, so the population would understand the use of nets rather than sleeping on them). One of the most interesting panelists, James Colmenares, CEO of Quindred, spoke about his development of an internet program. He used a method similar to that used by Obama in his effort to raise funds for his presidential race. Using 48 technical indicators, he made a grid of 50 metrics for 200 poor countries giving each country a score. The public can “play” this grid and change the score of any county by donating money or services such as micro-loans, mentoring a student or business person etc. The tool allows tracking and the teaching of needs.

Thanks to Vi Iungerich

MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL TOUR

A group of eight women toured the largest jail in the world on March 16 downtown at the Men's Central Jail. This three story building is currently holding about 6000 inmates but in past times has held as many as 10000 inmates. The jail was built in two parts, an older part built in the (70's?) & the newer half built in the 80's ?. This jail is also connected to the Twin Towers by an overhead passage.

The tour started out in the line-up room. This room is set up like an auditorium and has a stage-like small hall with a wall of windows. The windows act as a mirror when the lights in the seating part of the room are turned off. Those in the line-up cannot see the audience which can be quite large (50-60 seats). A microphone allows the inmates in the lineup to hear instructions from the dark area but not general conversation. Two deputies, Rosa Castro and Michael Scott were introduced. These deputies then conducted our tour. A display of inmate weapons (made in jail) was shown and some general information about the jail was given before the group started to see various areas of the jail.

The jail is considered an open jail as various inmates are allowed to walk around unescorted following general rules. Inmates are sorted by colored clothing. The general population wears a medium blue shirt and pant set. Trustees are dressed in pale green clothing, at risk inmates (alternative lifestyle and celebrity inmates are dressed in pale blue clothing and high security inmates are in orange).

Inmates jailed for child molestation are segregated in separate areas for their protection but are given general population clothing. There are no windows in this jail, and all air is filtered and recirculated. Long hallways are decorated with murals and paintings which have been done over time by inmates. Because the population vastly outnumbers the deputies, there are a variety of rules and policies to keep control of the population. There are approximately two deputies for about 120 inmates. When out of the dormitories or cells, the inmates must follow lines painted on the floor. Various colored lines lead to certain sections, for example the clinic, visiting room, school room, etc. Inmates walking about must also keep their hands in their pockets except when they are trustees and carrying food or laundry to sections of the jail. Food is served in the housing units whether they are cells or dormitories. Trustees do not receive any pay for their help but jobs help to pass the time. Most of the populations in this jail are inmates waiting for a court hearing or sentencing. The average inmate spends no more than a year in this jail. (However an ACLU person reported that recently an inmate was in this jail for over three years. This man was accused of murder and after three years was released when he was found not guilty.)

The first section we toured was a block of cells in the old section of the jail. This block of two tiered cells was being renovated and was empty. Currently no workers are in this section. Many parts of the old jail are being renovated so that the north section of the Ranch (Honor Ranch Jail Complex) can be closed. These changes are being made due to a decrease in the budget. In these cell blocks the doors of the cells are metal-bar sliding doors that must be opened and closed by a chain, hand-turned by a deputy. A long cat-walk outside the cells lets a deputy walk along the cells and see into them. At the beginning of the row of cells were two larger cells that held metal tables and stools fixed to the floor. These areas appeared to be for meals and/or recreation. They were followed by a long row of smaller cells with bunks. Deputies must view each cell at least once an hour. In each smaller cell are four lower metal shelves and two upper shelves which are used as bunks with a thin mattress placed on them. In the past as many as eight inmates resided in these cells. Six in the bunks and two on the floor. Due to lawsuits these cells can now house a maximum of four men. Also in each cell are a toilet and a payphone. Inmates can use the phones if they have money in their account. This money can be put into an account for them by their friends or family. Extras such as soap & shampoo are provided by the inmate fund if the inmate cannot afford to supply his own. Inmates are also provided cleaning supplies to keep their cells clean which helps to keep the inmates healthy. Daily meals are balanced for nutrition and consist of a cold breakfast and lunch and a hot dinner daily. A shower is provided at least every other day, and in this jail they are currently provided daily. Daily showers are helping

MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL TOUR

to control staph infections. They also have three hours a week of outdoor time or exercise. In some areas inmates don't have to go outside unless they wish to. Once out, they must stay for three hours. **Some of the controls used by the deputies** are to place a mix of ethnicities together. For example in a four man cell they will try to place one black, one Hispanic, one white and one some other ethnicity. This breaks up groups and forces groups to get along. The deputies also have an arsenal of tools. They carry no guns, but have a large canister of pepper spray. They also have a large gun which shoots a large rubber plug and a type of grenade which makes a loud noise and sprays rubber pellets to use in a mass riot situation. They also carry an intercom phone. Areas can be locked off.

After viewing the empty cells in the older section we were taken to the newer jail. In this area we traveled between the floors on the escalators which are the main ways of getting from floor to floor. These hallways are very windy as this is where the air is pumped into the floors. We saw a dormitory of men that were segregated because they all had an alternative lifestyle. A large room holding double bunks for about 120 men was partly filled with about 70 or 80 men. Along one side was an area partly partitioned holding a row of toilets. Continuing down this wall was a section after that of showers. Men in this dormitory could shower when they liked but there was no seating space other than the beds. The whole area was overseen by a raised enclosed deputy booth that could view most of this area. (In the news there have been complaints about these dorms because deputies cannot see all of the bunk areas clearly & there have been incidents of abuse between the inmates that were not seen because of the configuration of the space.) On the wall of the deputy booth was a schedule of classes provided by a Gay Hollywood group (SMART). They give classes in HIV prevention, academics, & other information of interest to this group. This is not part of the general education offered. Although sexual contact is against the law—this group also provides a condom to each inmate once a week. The deputy noted that by law these inmates must be provided with HIV medications if needed & also hormones if they are using them for gender changes. The deputies noted that there are often inmates who run out of money for the hormones or HIV medication and who then commit a petty crime to be able to be in jail and receive them. This jail is the only jail for alternative lifestyle inmates and there are three dormitories that are separated for these inmates. In the new section of the jail there are ten dormitories per floor.

We also saw a dormitory that was filled with inmates in a school module. They travel once a day to a classroom with an educational program and can earn a GED or basic education. We looked at the classroom area and saw two rooms that were well supplied with classroom material and 20 computer stations etc. Off of the classrooms was a large supply room with books and school supplies. It appeared that the classrooms were used in two periods a day (morning and afternoon).

We were taken to the roof where the outdoor exercise area is located. Here there is a small area roofed over with tables & benches & a water fountain. The day was sunny & some inmates were lying in the sun on their shirts. A few others were walking around the edge and a few were playing with a basketball where a couple of hoops had been attached to pillars. Along one edge of the roof was a row of individual cells for high security inmates. In each of these cells, which were open to the sky, was a pay phone and a U-shaped metal bar for exercise bolted to the floor. There was also a glassed-in booth set in the central area for the deputies to oversee the area.

After leaving the roof we passed a long line of trustees going to the laundry to pick up supplies. Inmates get two sets of clothing including underwear & socks & a set of bedding once a week. Trustees sort the laundry into an individual pack of bedding & clothing for distribution to each inmate.

We were going to visit a block of the older jail cells that was occupied but when we arrived the area was "locked down" for a strip search. On leaving the inside of the jail, the clinic area, the attorney room and library were pointed out to us, but we did not enter these areas. Deputies Castro and Scott were very open and informative during the tour. It was a very interesting morning.

Viola Iungerich, Jail Study

ONGOING LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Welcome to [KATY WATKINS, HARBOR CITY](#),
and a belated welcome to [KRISTA JOHNSON, RPV](#), who joined in 2009

PVPUSD COMMUNITY MEETING

SCHOOL BOARD AND SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE TASK IS A DIFFICULT ONE

A PVPUSD community meeting was held at Ridgecrest School on March 18 in order to encourage everyone (parents, residents, and seniors) to help out. With a difficult economy, at state and federal levels, the district is facing continuing cuts, affecting our ability to maintain high quality education and fiscal accountability. Eighty-five percent of our revenues come from the state. How can our school district cope with further reductions when according to the State Superintendent's office \$18 billion has already been cut over the past two years and the state presently needs to cut another \$2.4 billion? State-wide nearly 22,000 teachers & school personnel have received layoff notices. In February, PVPUSD approved layoff notices for 60 full-time and 30 temporary teachers saving the school district two million dollars, half of what the district needs to cut next year. Ideas include cutting five days off the school calendar year.

They are also working actively on their pre-school plans and summer programs and extended hours would be 7:30 am to 6:30 pm to help working parents. PVPUSD council of PTA's will head to Sacramento March 23-24 as part of the 2010 Capital Convoy. They will be lobbying state leaders to protect education funding and the flexibility in categorical funding. As the school situation affects everyone in the community it is suggested we contact our legislators, Rod Wright (25th Senatorial District) and Bonnie Lowenthal (54th Assembly District) and send ideas and suggestions to the PVPUSD Superintendent Dr. Williams, <supt@pvpusd.k12.ca.us>.

Diana Halderman, education observer

TRI-LEAGUE LASAGNA SUPPER MEETING REPORT

On March 18, at the annual Tri-League Lasagna supper, about 30 members of the Beach Cities, Torrance and Palos Verdes/San Pedro Leagues heard Dowell Myers speak. Mr. Meyers came to us from USC's School of Policy and Development Population Dynamics Research Group. The subject we asked him to speak on was "California on the Brink".

As Dowell stood up to speak, I thought, "Oh, boy, this is going to be really depressing!" To my surprise (and relief) he began, "On the brink of what?" He then proceeded to show us that California is really NOT on the brink of disaster.

Mr. Meyers began his speech by discrediting many old stories that we all know: immigration is accelerating; immigrants are not assimilating; migrants and immigrants are not needed. We were provided with an excellent handout that showed in graph form some long range trends.

In fact, immigration peaked in California in the 1990's & has been going steadily downward since. Rather than not assimilating, our immigrants are actually upwardly mobile. They are educating their children and buying homes. Immigration has continued to rise in states outside of California because of the lure of lower housing costs there. As more immigrants head toward these other states, still others will follow to be with their families and friends.

We were all relieved to hear Mr. Myer's positive report which was followed by an extensive question and answer period.

Thanks to Sharon Siegelman

LEAGUE-A-THON 2010

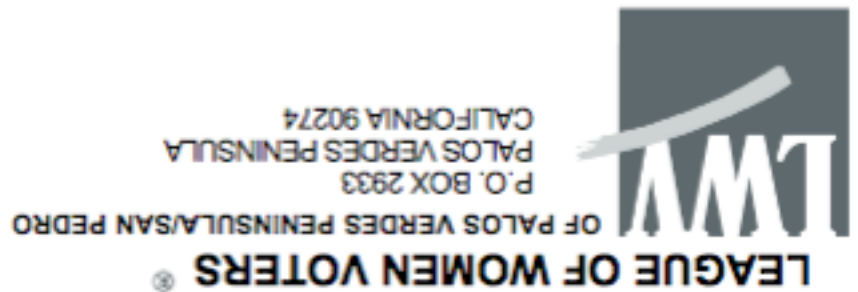
As you all know, we rely upon our yearly League-A-Thon to raise the funds which support our Voter Service activities. A big **THANK YOU** is due to those of you who have already replied, and have brought us past the 75% mark to our goal. Those generous supporters include the following persons:

- ★ **TERRY ARNUSH**
- ★ **ARLENE BLOCK**
- ★ **ANN BOOTH**
- ★ **COLBAUGH & HEINSHEIMER**
- ★ **PATSY EDWARDS**
- ★ **JACK ESENSTEN**
- ★ **GEORGE AND BARBARA GLEHORN**
- ★ **LINDA HERMAN**
- ★ **VIRGINIA HICKS**
- ★ **JOAN HOGAN**
- ★ **DALE AND CAROL HOOK**
- ★ **JOHN AND CINDY KONDON**
- ★ **TOM LONG**
- ★ **FRED MACKENBACH**
- ★ **NANCY MAHR**
- ★ **NELL MIRELS**
- ★ **GODFREY PERNELL**
- ★ **IRMA REMSTEIN**
- ★ **GINNY ROBERTSON**
- ★ **ANN SHAW**
- ★ **SHARON SIEGELMAN**
- ★ **IRENE SLAP**
- ★ **JO-ANNE WALLER**

Thanks also to Linda Herman, Terry Arnush and Nell Mirels who covered all the costs of the mailing, so that all donations will be used for League expenses, which this year will be more than usual for Voter Service thanks to both the June Primary and November General elections.

For anyone who still has the League-a-Thon material sitting on her desk, it is never too late to participate!

Nell Mirels



* 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