



San Diego VOTER

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

Vol. 70 No. 2

February 2006

UNITS: Program Planning

The annual program planning Unit meetings are an opportunity for LWVSD members to come together for group discussions with two objectives in mind. First, members will reacquaint themselves with existing local, county, and national League positions. Second, members will develop recommendations for the upcoming year or two. Suggested programs can be classified as follows:

- **STUDY:** when an issue is identified that cannot be acted upon for lack of an applicable League position, members may submit a recommendation for a new study. It should be accompanied by a scope or summary statement.
- **CONCURRENCE:** when a study has been completed and a position is held in another League, it could be recommended to be adopted *ver batum* by a vote of the delegates at a Convention or Annual Meeting. It also can be studied and adopted by individual local Leagues. Background material would be available.
- **UPDATE:** when there is reason to believe that an existing position is either outdated, no longer valid, or in demonstrable need of additional analysis and information, members may recommend an update. An update should also have a scope.
- **ISSUE FOR EMPHASIS:** when a combination of member and citizen education based on an existing position is needed; it may also include investigation or action.
- **ACTION:** when a local issue is identified for advocacy through letters, speeches, coalitions, or other types of action, we may take such action if the issue corresponds to or ties in with a League position.
- **INVESTIGATION/INFORMATION GATHERING:** when an issue arises that merits action and is already covered by an existing position, a committee may be formed or an individual may volunteer to gather and report on additional information that can be used to strengthen a course of action (advocacy, publication, public meeting, etc.). The provision of informational reports, reference pieces, new data, and background papers can often take the place of unneeded new studies.

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SAVE THE DATE

**Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner
Wednesday, April 19
Hilton Mission Valley Hotel**

Honorees:

VOICE of San Diego on-line newspaper, for its aggressive coverage of local politics
Diann Shipione, courageous advocate for openness in city government
Norma Damashek, League honoree for 2006

We look forward to your presence – bring a friend – put together a table – and support these wonderful people. for their work in making our city government more transparent.

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Kay's Comments

Put Picture here

I just received the e-newsletter from the LWVC and note the state Board of Directors recently voted to support the library bond measure that will appear on the June 6 statewide ballot. If passed by the voters, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and

Renovation Bond Act of 2006 will provide \$600 million in general obligation bond funds for library construction and renovation.

February is Program Planning month. It is important that you attend a February Unit meeting and have your voice heard. I think we have had excellent programs this year and I am especially appreciative to Beryl Flom and Emmett Greenwald for their dedicated work in developing this year's program with input from the membership and the board. The February Unit meetings will give an opportunity to review national, county, and local positions and recommend new studies or updating of existing positions.

Program Planning materials are available Online. For the first time, members may engage in conversation about issues of national interest by sending an e-mail to subscribe-lwv-programplanning@lists.lwv.org

The Development Committee and the Board have been discussing the importance of offering members and friends of the League the opportunity to join and make donations online. We think the talk is about to turn into action and that in the near future our website will make joining, paying and donating online a reality.

Unit members greatly appreciated the work done by Suzanne Michel, Natural Resources Director relative to the Energy Study. Suzanne led the effort to focus on a limited number of the Energy Study consensus questions. I understand that Unit groups came up with specific recommendations like one Unit thought the League should devote our efforts to reducing the amount of waste in the state. One Unit recommended our full support of the landmark proposal to build a million solar homes, businesses, farms, churches, schools, and other buildings over the next 10 years with a rebate to the owner.

Yet another Unit recommended we take a leadership role in ensuring that the planning and regulation of energy become a transparent process. Suzanne attended seven Unit meetings, provided additional resource information, and facilitated lively discussions. Thanks Suzanne!

Until next month, Kay

Calling all Volunteers...

We need volunteers to serve as the team leader for each of the Legislative interviews. By the time you receive this Voter some visits will have been made but some will be remaining. We are to visit legislators in our area, ask three questions, and record their responses. The responses are sent to the state office. The team leader greets the Senator, sees to the introductions, and asks the questions. One or more of the team needs to take notes so that they may be compiled for the state. Each member of the team should become well informed on one of the questions so that s/he may ask follow-up questions as appropriate.

The legislators are Senator Christine Kehoe, Senator Denise Ducheny, Assembly Members Lori Saldana, Shirley Horton, and Juan Vargas. If you volunteer to make one or more of the visits, the questions and background information will be mailed to you.

The visits will mostly occur on Fridays. Appointments will never be longer than one hour and probably less time. If you serve as the recorder you would have to spend an additional hour preparing your notes and emailing them to Kay Ragan. The exact dates and hours are not available at this time. If you are interested in any level of participation, please email Kay Ragan kragand@cox.net or call her at 619-922-8133.

Volunteers are also needed to make personal calls and or visits to potential sponsors for the Gloria Penner Civic Service Award Dinner. The list has been compiled and letters have gone out. If you would like to spend a couple of hours helping with the critical follow-up, please notify Jody Tadder at jotall3@yahoo.com

Kay Ragan

LWVSD in Action

2006 brings a new form of city government to San Diego. A Mayor-Council system has replaced our longstanding city manager government. The timing of this switchover could not be more peculiar, given the city's mounting crises over legal, ethical, and financial malpractices committed by city officials during the past decade. In fact, it is very likely that we are entering into one of the most unusual and difficult years in San Diego's history.

It should be noted that our new government structure is still in flux. Many additional changes to the Mayor-Council system can be expected in the coming year, some of which will involve ballot measures for more charter amendments. Clearly, there is a strong need for ongoing monitoring, advocacy, and participation by the LWVSD in the affairs of the city.

If we are to be effective, one of the first orders of business for us is to become well-informed about the way our city is designed to work under the Mayor-Council system. To achieve this goal, the Public Policy committee is making plans for a day-long workshop on the nuts and bolts of San Diego's new city government – its structure, people, agencies, responsibilities, etc.

Educating ourselves, as well as the public at large, about how our new city government works is an important step on the long road to eventual city recovery and restored health. So keep your eyes open for an announcement. It's coming soon.

Norma Damashek, Public Policy Committee
ndamashek@ucsd.edu

Coming in March!

Bus tour of social issues in Tijuana with SDSU professor Victor Clark, Director of Binational Center for Human Rights

Beryl Flom has arranged an all day bus tour in Tijuana for either March 21 or 22. Seating will be limited to 30 members (no spouse non-members). The group will meet at the trolley stop at the border and walk across to Tijuana where we will board a bus. The date and details are being finalized at press time.

The tentative schedule is to:

- visit a hillside colonia with its Indian migrants;
- visit the red-light district and a group of prostitutes;
- visit with a city council member to ask questions;
- talk with Grupa Beta, a federal government agency that rescues migrants;
- visit a drug rehab center; and
- see a middle class neighborhood.

(Continue for Page 1)

FUNDING FOR LWVUS

The LWVUS Board has decided not to recommend raising the Per Member Payment that local Leagues make to LWVUS, but to put a charge on any program item adopted by the Convention as follows:

- A major study can cost as much as \$300,000, equating to a PMP increase of \$3.00/year for two years.
- A limited review/update of a position can cost \$40,000-\$100,000, equating to a PMP increase of \$0.80 - \$2.00/year for one year.
- A concurrence costs \$60,000, equating to a PMP increase of \$1.20/year for one year.

There is much discussion on the LWVUS Program Planning Listserv (to subscribe, send an email to subscribe-lwv-programplanning@lists.lwv.org regarding these charges.

POSITIONS

The Positions in Brief for all three levels of League can be found on the LWVSD website (www.lwvsandiego.org) or can be obtained by calling the office (858-483-8696) or by picking them up at the office (4901 Morena Blvd., Ste. 104). The office also has free copies of the LWVSD or ILO (LWV of San Diego County) positions in full, and the national positions in full in "Impact on Issues" which sells for \$5/ book. Positions in brief will be handed out at Unit meetings for those who are pretty familiar with them or can do a quick read. At the Unit meetings, we will review these positions quickly and decide to retain, drop, or update them. We will then go on to discuss possible new studies or updates for all three levels of League. **Please be familiar with our positions so this process goes quickly and we can have an interesting discussion.**

NEW IDEAS NEEDED PRIOR TO UNITS

Please send your preliminary ideas for study, updated study, issue for education and advocacy, or fact finding to Beryl Flom, 1577 Vista Claridad, La Jolla, CA 92037 or edflom@sbcglobal.net. The phone is 858-459-4406 if there is anything you want to discuss it. Deadline is February 7th.

As of January 15th, suggested studies include:

- 1) Eminent domain
- 2) Recess appointments
- 3) U.S. immigration and border issues

- 4) Maximizing our communities' participation in government (local or county)
- 5) Obesity, health, and physical fitness
- 6) How to fund a League study (recommended by LWVC Board)

A suggested concurrence is:

- 1) Abolition of the death penalty (LWVIL)

Suggested updates include:

- 1) Military Policy position (LWVUS)
- 2) Apportionment (redistricting) including proportional representation
- 3) Redistricting
- 4) The LWVUS position on the Presidency, emphasizing Presidential authority

A suggested action is:

- 1) Letter from LWVUS opposing torture
- 2) Ways to initiate energy conservation pilot projects in schools (local or county)
- 3) Develop legislation for the City of San Diego to ensure responsible development with limited water resources
- 4) Work to install energy and water audits in all San Diego schools

Issues for emphasis are:

- 1) Open government and accountability
- 2) Quality and affordable healthcare
- 3) Education equity
- 4) Public transportation

Some of these suggestions could be applied to more than one level of League. A complete list of possible items will be handed out at the Unit meetings, so all the Units are talking mostly about the same topics – we need to combine your recommendations into a final document.

Beryl Flom

We are delighted to welcome the following new members.



<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
Betty Kollisch	92127
Karen Beeson	92114

Unit Meetings for February “Local, County and National Program Planning.”

Remember, you can attend any meeting -- Pick a time and place that is convenient. If you can't make your customary unit meeting because of another appointment or a family matter, pick another one. Don't forget we have one EVENING meeting each month in a convenient centralized location: Mission Valley, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Call Nancy McCleary for directions, 619-222-9719.

Monday, Feb 13 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335 Peg Bates (858) 484-6069
Monday, Feb 13 6:00 – 8:00 PM	Mission Valley	First United Methodist Church 2111 Camino del Rio South Linder Hall Rm 2 San Diego, CA	Nancy McCleary (619) 222-9719 Debra Blum (619) 225-0353
Tuesday, Feb 14 9:30 – 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Feb 14 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	Home of Shirley Larson 5086 Constitution Ave. San Diego, CA 92117	LaRu DeKock (858) 455-1990 Laura Stevenson (858) 573-9734
Wed., Feb 15 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	LWVSD Office 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100 Suite 104 San Diego, CA 92109	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Feb 15 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. Feb 16 9:30 – 11:30	East San Diego	Home of Barbara Evje 8767 Blue Lake Drive San Diego, CA 92112	Barbara Evje (619) 462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — February

February			
3	11:00 AM	Fri	ILO Board Meeting, League Office
7	6:00 PM	Tues	Board Meeting, League Office
9	9:30 AM	Thur	Unit Council Meeting, League Office
9	11:00 AM		Unit Training, League Office
10	9:30 AM	Fri	Nominating Committee, League Office
11	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office
2/13 to 16			Units - Program Planning
15	10:00 AM	Wed	Membership Committee, League Office
17	9:30 AM	Fri	Public Policy Committee, League Office
20		Mon	President's Day
25	9:00 AM	Sat	Development Committee, League Office

The Oil-for-Food Program!

As United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan understated at his year-end press conference, this year has been a really difficult one—from the tsunami to events in Lebanon and Darfur and beyond. He then commented on the future work of the United Nations to be accomplished before his retirement in December 2006, but he failed to mention the Independent Inquiry Committee's (IIC) reports on the Oil-for-food Program (OFFP), which had been compiled by Chairman Paul Volcker, Justice Richard Goldstone, and Mark Pieth and their team of 90 investigators, forensic experts, and computer programmers who examined 12,000,000 pages of documents in 18 months. The cost of the IIC was \$34 million.

After reading the IIC's major report of 1,210 pages, which was presented last September to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council by IIC Chairman Paul Volcker (while Dee Aker and I watched), I can readily conclude that the United Nations should not have accepted the enormous task of administering the OFFP. In May 1996, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali implemented the program to sell Iraqi oil for the purchase of food; Kofi Annan inherited the program upon being appointed Secretary-General in January 1997. Kofi Annan appointed Benon Sevan as Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Program to oversee the three divisions of processing and monitoring contracts, managing the program, and coordinating the operations in Iraq. All transactions had to be approved by the U.N. Security Council's 661 Committee, which was comprised of representatives from its 15 member states. During a time frame of six and a half years, the OFFP processed \$64.2 billion in oil revenues and approved approximately \$37 billion in purchase orders of goods requested by Saddam Hussein and his officials with the remainder going to fund U.N. weapons inspectors, payments to Kuwait, administrative costs, and the Development Fund for Iraq.

By November 2000, however, Iraq was engaging in a pattern of sanctions breaches that in the end generated billions of dollars in illegal revenues through kickback payments, surcharges on oil purchases, and oil smuggling to neighboring countries. In December 2000, the 661 Committee became aware of the kickback scheme, but nothing was initiated to stop it, and Saddam Hussein and his regime garnered in excess of \$1.6 billion by the time of the invasion in March 2003. Similarly, illegal surcharges yielded a total of \$229 million to the Iraqi regime while the revenue from oil smuggling to Turkey, Syria, and Jordan was estimated at \$5.7 billion. The U.N. was no match for the likes of Saddam Hussein.

One of the IIC's conclusions was that administering the OFFP was beyond the capability of the U.N.'s Office of the Iraq Program, U.N. Security Council, and its 661 Committees. Each U.N. member state, especially the United States, should have assumed responsibility for directing the Security Council to oversee more effectively the OFFP and for ensuring the enforcement of the sanctions on Iraq. The IIC report, on the other hand, concluded that the OFFP was successful in reducing malnutrition rates among Iraqi children from 11% in 1996 to 7.8% in 2000 and 4% in 2003 as well as an increase in calories per capita per day from 1,800 in 1995 to 2,800 in 2000. To summarize, the IIC's report painstakingly analyzed the weaknesses in the OFFP and highlighted the beneficial impact of the OFFP on the Iraqi people.

Anne Hoiberg, Chair, International Relations Committee

League Honored by State Legislature

In the 2005 legislative session, the League of Women Voters was honored by the State Legislature with a bill "memorializing its 85th anniversary and recognizing its origins and accomplishments." Wow! Look at us!

"Read Around America" March 2, Dr. Suess' birthday

Every LWV member: attend your favorite school and read a carefully chosen book to one or more classes. ARRANGE IN ADVANCE, please.

Paula Hurst

In Memoriam

MARY CUNNINGHAM

The League was saddened by the passing of Mary Cunningham. In mid-December, she succumbed to leukemia. Many friends touched by Mary's caring and sweetness attended her memorial at Wesley Palms in mid-January. She joined the LWVSD in 1977 and was always active – helping whenever she was asked. Mary chaired Program and Membership as a Board member; she also was Unit Chair for Mission Hills for many years. She was one of the primary people on the Mental Health study committee and served on the ILO Board for several years. Her experience as a teacher and psychiatric social worker in the San Diego City Schools for 35 years made her a wonderful resource for that study. She also worked on the School-Based Health Clinic Study and was knowledgeable about affordable housing and outsourcing. Louise Arnold wrote, "Mary was a lovely person....our League was fortunate to have her as a member and active at that."

ONALEE SHIRK

Onalee passed away on January 8. A League member previously and again in recent years, she was a special education teacher for the Chula Vista School District for 30 years. She was a founding member of the Golden Hill Action Group, a devoted volunteer for Planned Parenthood and one of the founders of the Make a Difference Fund. She received numerous awards for her volunteer work including the 2005 Defender of Choice award. There was standing-room only at a celebration of life service held for her on January 15 at Rebecca's Coffee House.

The LWVSD's Memorial Fund has been building over the last few years. Contributions are always welcome. The money is used to fund programs and educational forums.

LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

Yes, I'd like to join the League of Women Voters of San Diego!

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$55.00 for one membership; _____ \$85.00 for two in same household

Mail to: League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117

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