



League of Women Voters of San Diego County **COUNTY VOTER**

Fall 2006

An Inter-League Organization (ILO) - City of San Diego • East San Diego County • North Coast • Escondido

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. The information contained herein is for the use of League members only and cannot be republished or used for any other purpose without the written consent of the League of Women Voters.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The June LWVUS Convention was an invigorating and educational experience for me. Meeting the League leaders behind their titles and observing their dedication to League was inspiring. Listening to members talk demonstrated how involved, active and committed Leagues are throughout our country. The experienced speakers produced outstanding workshops. My suitcase was several pounds heavier on the flight back from Minneapolis, due to the handouts, CDs and videos I collected from workshops, displays and caucuses.

At the end of his humorous speech, the banquet speaker received a standing ovation from League members. He was none other than Garrison Keillor of National Public Radio fame. He informed us that he was delighted to be able to repay a long-term debt. It appears that when he was in 8th grade, the LWV of his city in Minnesota sponsored a contest for a 1,000 word report on "America the Beautiful" and he won first prize - \$15. "You will never know how much it affected me" he said. He also shared with us how winning the contest increased his confidence in himself and made a major change in his life. Good example of our impact!

I look forward to applying the observations and information I obtained during those four rigorous days to my new term as President of SD County LWV. At the LWV of San Diego County June Convention, experienced and committed Officers and Directors were elected to the County Board. The Issues of Emphasis that we will be working on this year will be more effective transportation corridors and to push the County's Land Use Update of the SD County General Plan 2020. As we add the LWV and LWVUS issues to our program planning, we foresee opportunities for our Local Leagues to work together in our busy year ahead.

Sincerely – Nancy McCleary, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2008 LWV SAN DIEGO COUNTY INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION (ILO)

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[Vacant] 1st Vice President, Administration
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Eddie Cisco (LWVESDC), Director, County Government
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Nan Valerio (LWVSD), Director, Regional Governance
Elaine Barton (LWVNCSDC), Director, Social Policy
Grace Roos (LWVSD), Director, Transportation
[Vacant] Voters Service

Nominating Committee (not yet appointed)

LWVC SUPPORTS SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PLAN IN SB 840
Join the local Chapter of HCA/CA for OneCare-NOW.org campaign

San Diego - The League of Women Voters of California strongly supports Health Care for All/CA's OneCare-Now.org campaign for passage of Senate Bill 840(Kuehl) which provides for universal health insur-

ance for Californians. “OneCareNow” means one plan; one standard of high quality care for all; one risk pool for all residents covered by one insurance fund. According to an independent Lewin Group study the efficiencies achieved by a single payer health system are estimated to save \$8 billion the first year and up to \$343 billion after 10 years by reducing administrative overhead, waste and fraud. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation without a universal health program. We rank #37 in the World Health Organization’s list of nations. Our population is not as healthy as those above us on this list, including Japan, Canada, France, Sweden, Norway and Germany. If this campaign succeeds in California, other states will follow.

The campaign’s goal is to get, in one year, one million people signed up as supporters of the bill, have an event in a different city or town every day for one year starting August ‘06 and raise one million dollars for the campaign. The daily events will focus on education and advocacy for universal health insurance. Activists will reach out to local governments, schools, local leaders, officeholders and the media to grow support. Events begin in small towns and culminate 365 days later in the largest city, Los Angeles, on August 12, 2007. A week later, on August 19, 2007, a huge rally in Sacramento will call for universal health insurance signed by the governor. In San Diego County the first of 21 events was in Ramona on August 30, ‘06 and continue until August ‘07 in downtown San Diego.

SB 840 has gained broad support from organizations like American Association of University Women, The California Nurses Association, the California Physicians Alliance, California Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, Latino Issues Forum and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry. SB 840 will require a simple majority to pass, but the financing bill, SB 1784, which is still being developed, will require a two thirds majority for passage. Senator Kuehl is working with legislators on the details of this bill.

All League members are urged to sign the OneCare-NOW.org petition online and sign up for house parties and campaign events throughout the county. Contact HCA San Diego Chapter co-directors Sylvia Hampton, LWV of San Diego County VP for Health (858.578.8852 or <Sylvia-hampton@sbcglobal.net>) Susan Duerksen, former *San Diego Union-Tribune* health reporter at <susand@cts.com>.

Monthly campaign meetings are held in the Kearny Mesa area.

AUGUST 9, 2006 STUDY CALLS TRANSMISSION GRID CONGESTION “CRITICAL”

In a study of the nation’s electrical grid release August 9, the U.S. Department of Energy found the congestion on Southern California’s transmission system “critical” and called for immediate action to expand the grid to ensure future reliability and improve access to renewable energy. The National Electric Transmission Congestion Study found that, “Southern California needs new transmission capacity to reach generation resources outside the region for reliability, economics, and compliance with the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard.”

Southern California was one of two areas nationwide identified as a “Critical Congestion Area.” The only other area was the Atlantic coast between New York City and northern Virginia.

The study also highlighted a 2005 California Energy Commission report that identified San Diego Gas & Electric’s Sunrise Powerlink as a transmission project that is needed in the near term to address these problems.

The Sunrise Powerlink would import enough energy for more than 650,000 SDG&E customers, while expanding access to new sources of clean, renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal, located in the Imperial Valley.

The Department of Energy’s findings come on the heels of the California Independent System Operation’s (Cal-ISO) recent decision that the Sunrise Powerlink is a needed transmission project that economically solves San Diego’s known reliability problems. The Cal-ISO is responsible for managing the state’s energy grid. SDG&E filed the application for the Sunrise Powerlink with the California Public Utilities Commission (CUC) on August 4. The CPUC’s decision on the project is expected in 2007. To read the Department of Energy’s report go to:

www.oe.energy.gov/DocumentsandMedia/Congestion_Study_2006-9MB.pdf

NOVEMBER SMART VOTER IN ACTION

The San Diego County Smart Voter Committee has met to begin coordinating their Leagues’ efforts to ensure maximum participation by candidates and the voting public on LWV of California’s election website, www.smartvoter.org. Representatives at our initial meeting were Nancy McCleary (ILO), Marietta Lassaline and Eddie Cisco (East County), Patrick Coony

and June Rady (Escondido), Muriel Filman (San Diego City), Joyce Joseph (North Coast) and Frances Talbot-White, southern California Smart Voter coordinator.

Smart Voter is a statewide League project that began ten years ago in northern California and gradually moved south. It is financed by Ed Fund monies and managed by a dedicated state team of league members that includes northern and southern California coordinators. Each county league manages the elections in their location with assistance from the LWVC team. Frances Talbot-White, southern California Smart Voter coordinator, orientated the committee to Smart Voter at the committee meeting.

The Smart Voter website provides free space to all candidates before elections. The format is colorful, readable, and easily found by voters who increasingly use the Internet for election information. The space is configured so that candidates or their assistants are guided through steps to help them put their own information on the site. They can include position papers, lists of supporters, photos, and links to their own websites. Smart Voter also contains long and short versions of state and local propositions, links to local government sites, news media sites, the Registrar of Voters site, an election calendar, and much more. On San Diego County's home page, a voter can enter his voting address, see his own ballot and can then obtain more information on individual candidates and propositions.

In early September, after the Registrar of Voters releases the list of certified candidates, all local candidates will be added to the Smart Voter site and letters of invitation and specific instructions will be mailed to those candidates. The Smart Voter committee members will then conduct follow-up contacts to encourage candidates to participate, so voters have sufficient information to make their own informed choices. We're looking forward to many more members being involved once the site is complete.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with SD County Smart Voter please contact:

Joyce Joseph, Smart Voter coordinator, San Diego County Cell #(858) 229-9638

jajoseph@san.rv.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OBSERVER REPORT

The Chief Administrative Officer's proposed budget for 2006-2008 recapped past performance and set priorities for the future. Most attention was given to successes

and promises to continue working on problems that remain unresolved. There were no members of the public present on the day of the presentation.

The budget is balanced with a "healthy" reserve. The \$4.33 billion total is a modest growth from 2004-06. The CAO hopes for acquisition of open space, new libraries, health facilities, and better emergency response. The past two years have seen major changes in cooperation and communication technology among those agencies responsible for fire, flood and earthquakes.

The Board continues to pursue consolidation of all unincorporated fire districts. This is being investigated by the Local Agency Formation Commission but is stalled at this point while a funding source is identified. This observer feels that the work already done by the fire districts, fire chiefs and county staff has greatly reduced the danger. All agencies have agreed that individual responsibility is a key factor and have begun educational programs.

A public hearing was held on August 2 on the General Plan 2020 Circulation Element. This has been updated to 2030 because the zoning element build out will demand plans for traffic futures. A good presentation was given by Ivan Holler of the San Diego County Planning Department with maps, graphics and road designations, cost savings, etc. This hearing was well attended by the public and at 3 p.m. the Supervisors were creating a detailed motion that included at least second looks at problem areas (mostly North County and Rural East County).

On August 8 Supervisors voted to support Proposition 1A. It does not add new bonds but assures transportation taxes will be spent on transportation. They did not vote to support Propositions 1B through 1E which create new capital improvements. They supported AB 17 (Koretz) for a Universal Waste District for toxic wastes. There was a report on plans to deal with a flu pandemic from members of all affected organizations, cities, businesses, etc. All except the City of Sa Diego have integrated their own plans with Health and Human Services and the Office of Emergency Services. Watch for your copy of disaster preparedness. It's YOUR JOB. There were also presentations from the Airport Authority and the Marines on multi-use of Miramar. While Supervisors indicated personal choice, there was no attempt to endorse or oppose.

The Board continues with a conservative mindset, with many actions passing on the consent calendar with the support of all five.

2006 LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
<p style="text-align: center;">BAY AREA</p> <p>The HYATT Residence 620 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto</p> <p>Fee: \$25—includes workshops and lunch (reserve lunch by 9/6) \$15—includes workshops only**</p> <p>Send Registration & Checks to: Crownie Billik 360 Sunkist Lane, Los Altos 94022</p> <p>For more information, call Crownie Billik at 650-948-0936</p> <p>**No outside food allowed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EAST LA COUNTY / INLAND EMPIRE / SAN DIEGO COUNTY</p> <p>First Christian Church 4055 Jurupa Street, Riverside</p> <p>Fee: \$25—includes workshops and lunch (reserve lunch by 9/6) \$15—includes workshops only*</p> <p>Send Registration & Checks to: Barbara Purvis 4042 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside 92503</p> <p>For more information, call Barbara Purvis at 951-352-8711</p> <p>*You may bring your own lunch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NORTHERN CA</p> <p>Health Improvement Partnership Bldg 11105 Rhyolite Drive, Redding</p> <p>Fee: \$25—includes workshops and lunch (reserve lunch by 9/27) \$15—includes workshops only*</p> <p>Send Registration & Checks to: Susan Wilson, LWV Redding Area P.O.Box 1463, Redding CA 96001</p> <p>For more information, call Susan Wilson at 530-243-7760</p> <p>*You may bring your own lunch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEST LA COUNTY, NORTH ORANGE COUNTY</p> <p>McCormick and Schmick's Two Rodeo, Beverly Hills</p> <p>Fee: \$25—includes workshops and lunch (reserve lunch by 10/23) \$15—includes workshops only**</p> <p>Send Registration & Checks to: Judy Borash 9511 Highridge Dr., Beverly Hills 90210</p> <p>For more information, call Judy Borash at 310-275-6343</p> <p>**No outside food allowed</p>

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.lwvc.org/lwvonly

Visit www.lwvc.org/lwvonly for more information about the October 14 workshop in Davis.

Please check the desired location:

- Bay Area (Palo Alto)
- Inland Empire, East LA Co., San Diego Co. (Riverside)
- Northern CA (Redding)
- West La Co., North Orange Co. (Beverly Hills)

Yes, I'd like to order lunch.

Name: _____

LWV: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

★★★Please make checks payable to LWVC★★★

Tentative Schedule

9:15 to 9:45 a.m.	Registration, Refreshments, Publication Sales
9:45 to 10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Orientation
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	League 101—Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about League
11:00 - 12:00 a.m.	Voter Service—How to Run a Local Election
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Topic Tables
1:00 - 1:45 p.m.	Membership—Getting and Keeping Members All Year Long
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Community Visibility—Connecting with Your Community
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up and Evaluations