



HOW SECURE IS OUR BORDER?

The LWVSD is privileged to have speakers from ICE and the Border Patrol at the March 29th luncheon give us an update on border security under the Obama administration. In 2003, after 9-11, the Department of Homeland Security was initiated to pull together all the government agencies that work to keep Americans safe from terrorism and to protect our borders and workforce from illegal immigration.



A recent Pew report estimated that 300,000 illegal immigrants crossed our borders annually between 2007-2009 which is down from 850,000 in 2000-2005. They credit this significant decrease to more personnel including the National Guard and to a significant crackdown on employers. Now, due to the recession and fewer jobs in the U.S., illegal crossings have decreased again. With both agencies in the same room, we hope to understand how they work together and how successful they are. Their mission is a huge undertaking and requires all kinds of experts from

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March Unit Meetings Clean Elections.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision of January 2010, Citizens United v Federal Election Commission has sparked renewed activity to reform our electoral system. Clean Elections campaign reform is one option that is already working in states and cities in the United States.

... in the face of a conservative court that is likely to make future rulings weakening existing laws, Clean Elections remains the most robust option for campaign reform. This is because unlike traditional campaign finance reforms, which establish bans and restrictions that the courts could view as limiting political speech protected by the Constitution, the voluntary Clean Elections programs level the playing field by providing resources to candidates who might not otherwise have access. They do this by giving candidates who demonstrate popular support through collecting a set number of small contributions to run a competitive campaign, even if faced with a well-financed, privately-funded opponent. In other words, Clean Elections is about expanding opportunities rather than restricting the ways that money can be used. To date the courts largely have concurred that public financing promotes speech.[1]

Neighborhoods for Clean Elections (NCE) is a grassroots organization working locally to bring Clean Elections to the City of San Diego. Chris Gommel, a League member and a member of NCE, will present information about how Clean Elections systems are working in states and cities across the U.S. In addition, she will discuss NCE's goals to empower neighborhoods through Clean Elections ads to qualify a Clean Elections initiative for the November 2012 ballot.

[1] Public Campaign

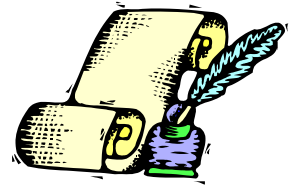
— Chris Gommel

In Your March Voter:

- > Border Issues — p. 1, 4, and border tour flyer
- > Unit Meetings — Clean Elections — p. 1 and lunch flyer
- > Co-President's Report — p. 2
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CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 12 October 1911: A Victory for California Women



On October 12th, one hundred years ago, California voters (men!) went to the polls to vote for or against the Women's Vote Amendment, the second time the women's vote initiative was on the ballot. The first vote in 1896 ended in defeat, as the final tally only garnered 44.6% in favor of women's right to vote. The count in 1911 showed 125,037 for the amendment and 121,450 against; California women were granted the right to vote!

To acknowledge this struggle, we will dedicate this year to learning about the remarkable history of the Suffrage Movement in California. The author of the Women's Vote Amendment was Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first woman attorney in California who, in 1878, was admitted to the Bar Association although being rejected from attending law school. After Foltz's husband deserted the family, she supported her five children by working for a judge while pursuing an interest in becoming an attorney. After she and her friend, Laura DeForce Gordon, were denied admission to Hastings College of Law, Foltz wrote legislation giving women the right to attend law school, a bill that was pushed through the legislature and signed by the governor. She also authored another bill that changed the law from allowing only men to serve as attorneys by replacing the designation, "white male," with "person."

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In 1882, Foltz ran for San Francisco city district attorney, which she lost, but moved on to San Diego where, during the late 1880s, Foltz practiced law. Foltz also founded and published the *San Diego Bee*, and she wrote a monthly column in *New American Woman*. During her career of 56 years, she accomplished many "firsts": the first female deputy district attorney in the United States, the first female clerk for the State Judiciary Committee, the first woman appointed to the State Board of Corrections, the first woman to be a licensed Notary Public, the first woman named director of a major bank, and, in 1930, the first woman to run for governor of California, at the age of eighty-one. To honor Foltz, the name of the Criminal Courts Building in Los Angeles was changed to the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in 2002.

Another amazing California suffragist was Dr. Charlotte Baker, who campaigned for passage of the Women's Vote Amendment here in San Diego. A leading obstetrician who delivered more than 1,000 babies without the loss of a mother, Dr. Baker served as president of the Equal Suffrage Association, which organized precinct walks and talks, presentations at churches and meetings, as well as on street corners or from automobiles, and entered a float in a July 22 parade.

According to historian Marilyn Kneeland, the campaign picked up steam in September 1911. Dr. Baker and three other suffrage workers set out in a decorated automobile for a three-day campaign tour of San Diego's back country, visiting Oceanside on Monday, Escondido that evening, Fallbrook on Tuesday, and Ramona on Wednesday. With the arrival of election day, men throughout California, especially in San Diego, voted for women's suffrage.

Days after the election, Dr. Baker received a phone call from the city clerk telling her to go ahead and register to vote, which she and others did. Her goal was to register as many women as possible before the upcoming November 14, 1911 harbor bond election, the first city-wide election in which women of San Diego voted--and a municipal pier was subsequently constructed at the foot of Broadway!

A series of events commemorating California women's right to vote will begin on March 26th with a program honoring the courageous women who fought tenaciously for women's rights. As we plan other events leading up to October 12, you are invited to share your ideas on events that can be offered to members and the community. Please contact me with any and all ideas.

— Anne Hoiberg, Co-President

UNIT CALENDAR — March — Clean Elections

Monday, Mar. 7 2 – 4 p.m.	Coronado	Coronado Police Dept. Community Room; 700 Orange Ave. Coronado, CA 92118 (location change)	Nancy Cuddy (619) 437-4597
Tuesday, Mar. 8 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	La Jolla	Riford Center 6811 La Jolla Blvd. La Jolla, CA 92037	Joan Dahlin (858) 454-5019 Sherry Bloom (858) 459-7598 (619) 200-0300 (cell)
Tuesday, Mar. 8 1 – 3 p.m.	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Shirley Larson (858) 272-9752 Marianne Kobrak (858) 450-1521
Wednesday, Mar. 9 1 – 3 p.m. (date change)	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Wednesday, Mar. 9 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Mission Valley	Meeting Room Mission Valley Library, Fenton Pkwy Ikea side of shopping center San Diego, CA 92108	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Amy Garapich (858) 270-7645 (while Debra is traveling)
Thursday, Mar. 10 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115-2828	Barbara Evje (619) 462-4772
Saturday, Mar. 12 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Frances Bumpus (619) 263-7335 La Quita Robbins (619) 470-9095
Monday, Mar. 14 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	The Gateway - TV Room 12751 Gateway Park Road Poway, CA 92064	Claire Weiner (858) 679-7350 Betsy Stevens (858) 451-5653

LWVSD CALENDAR — March

1	T	LWVSD Board, LWVSD Office, 5:30 p.m.
3	Th	Unit Council, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.
4	F	County League Board, LWVSD Office, 10:30 a.m.
7-14		Units — Clean Elections
11	F	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.
16	W	Bus Tour of US Border with Mexico ... (see flyer)
16	W	Education Committee, LWVSD Office, 9:30 a.m.
21	M	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.
22	T	Luncheon: Clean Elections 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Tom Ham's (see flyer)
25	F	Program Committee, LWVSD Office, 10 a.m.



Women's History Month Activities — details p 4

March 8, 6:30 p.m., Annual International Women's Day Breakfast

March 8, 6:30 p.m., Women's Equity Council Celebration

March 26, 2:00 p.m., LWVSD presents "Celebrating San Diego Women Suffragists"

Women's History Month

Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 a.m., Annual International Women's Day Breakfast commemorating the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice USD (619) 260-2358

Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m., Women's Equity Council Presents: 28th Annual International Women's Day Celebration, *Talk-back from Delegates to the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women*, Women's Museum of California, 2323 Broadway, Ste 107 (805) 403-4773



Saturday, March 12, San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame (619) 233-7963

Saturday, March 26, 2:00 p.m., League of Women Voters of San Diego presents: *Celebrating San Diego Women Suffragists—and Eleanor Roosevelt* a discussion of the 100th Anniversary of the California Women's Vote Amendment, San Diego suffragists, and "automobile campaigning" in 1911!

Plus, back by popular demand: a reading of the play, *Eleanor Roosevelt: Her Frustration and Fulfillment*, with Ashley Gardner and Anne Hoiberg, Women's Museum of California, 2323 Broadway, Ste 107 (619) 233-7963

(continued from front page)



intelligence analysts to agricultural scientists to law enforcement professionals to trade specialists to lawyers and prison guards.

Basically, the Border Patrol ensures security of America's borders while facilitating legitimate travel and trade. It does this by screening people entering the United States and apprehending people trying to cross illegally. It also scans cargo containers and keeps track of goods imported into this country while looking for illegal goods. On a typical day, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processes nearly one million passengers and pedestrians and 58,000 cargo containers, executes 2,140 apprehensions between ports of entry and 107 apprehensions at ports of entry, seizes 6,650 pounds of narcotics and 450 plant pests and animal diseases. There are 327 ports of entry into the U.S. which are manned by 21,000 CBP officers. Another 20,000 Border Patrol agents work between the ports of entry. President Obama ordered 1,200 National Guard troops to assist the Border Patrol.

The U.S. has 7,000 miles of land borders and 95,000 miles of sea borders to protect. Alan Bersin, the former superintendent of San Diego City Schools and former attorney general for San Diego, now heads CBP.

ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement arm of Homeland Security, is responsible for detaining those apprehended and checking on employees at worksites which sometimes requires a raid. President Obama has requested alternatives to incarceration for many of them and has asked for more humane treatment; our speakers will be able to update us about changes made to meet the President's request. ICE's job is complicated by people who do not show up in court or who disappear (thus becoming fugitives) as well as countries who refuse to take back their citizens who have been apprehended in the U.S. According to the Office of the Inspector General, in 2007 ICE did not have enough funds for beds and personnel to incarcerate 36% of those arrested by ICE while their cases were in court. OIG also recommended that a better database be developed by ICE. In October 2010, ICE announced that they had deported 392,882 illegal aliens of which 195,000 were criminals. They have developed a Secure Communities Program where they work with local law enforcement agencies in identifying illegal aliens with criminal records. Mike Carney will detail this program which is currently in the news in Escondido. In 2008, ICE adopted Performance-Based National Detention Standards which focus on outcomes and appropriate behavior and oversight to allow an atmosphere of civility and trust. By nature, ICE's work is more clandestine, but we hope to get a grasp on issues they face.

— Beryl Flom

Membership In League*Exercises Your Brain***MEMBERSHIP**

Now that the holidays are over, people are beginning to think about joining the League. We have several new and returning members this month:

Michael Chapin	92130	Ruth Ann Hageman	92109
Donna Manning	92118	Carl Nelson	91910
Janice Hartwig	92119	Patricia Osuna	91942

Please welcome them and help them to find a niche in the LWVSD. Mike is a member of the education committee. Ruth Ann has been on the Board in the past. Carl is married to the Voter editor. Janice is also a returning member.

Believe it or not, the Board is beginning to plan for the annual meeting and honoring our 50 year members. If you think you have been a member of the League of Women Voters (anywhere) for 50 consecutive years, please contact Beryl Flom, (858) 459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net

We are also working on nominations for next year's Board of Directors. If you would like to serve on the Board, the nominating committee would appreciate hearing from you. Please contact Beryl Flom and she will pass your name on to the committee. You may also want to recommend someone - we'd love to hear from you with any suggestions.

— Beryl Flom, VP/Membership

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO***LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE*

save the date
Friday, April 29, 2011

*Closing the Achievement Gap***Interactive Discussion:**

Dual Language Acquisition
Quality Early Education & Preschool For All
Demonstration Project
Transitional Kindergarten

Panel Guests:

Barbara Jimenez, First 5 San Diego
Dr. Janet Oh, University of California, Los Angeles
Sylvia Gonzalez, San Diego Unified School District

Tom Hams Lighthouse Restaurant, 2150 Harbor Island Drive, 92101
Sandwich Buffet and Program: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost: \$23.00
For more information call the League @ (858) 483.8696

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of San Diego, Preschool California, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, First 5 San Diego, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation

YOU DON'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

ELLIOTT D. SCLAR

A SYNOPSIS

University City Unit Project



Public contracting was widely used in the 1800s in an attempt to save money by many governments. Later the name was changed to *privatization* followed by *outsourcing* and now *managed competition*. Regardless of

the name, for it to fully work to the full benefit of the taxpayers, certain guidelines should be followed. Poorly managed privatization can collide with important public values.

1-The public service to be outsourced needs to be carefully defined with regard to the products or services required. Unless this service is fully understood, there is a large risk of contracting for the wrong product and thus making a mistake that is not easily reversed.

Ex. Albany, NY. Vehicle Maintenance Chap. 5

2-For proper comparison, **Activity Based Cost Accounting** should be used. Without an understanding of the connection between the service provided and its costs, there is no justification for claiming either that privatization saves money or that in-house operation is justified.

Ex. Massachusetts Highway Dept. Chap. 2

3-**Avoidable Cost Accounting** also needs to be used. If there are no savings on avoidable costs in the long run, it is unlikely that there will ever be any real long-term savings from the privatization.

Ex. Santa Barbara, CA Public Transit Chap. 3

4-**Transaction Costs** must be fully understood.

Supervising outside providers is a necessary cost.

Where risk is a major factor, the government will likely have to pay a risk premium to engage a reputable contractor. In such a case, in-house services are more likely to be the preferred alternative.

If the service involves highly specialized equipment and/or especially skilled labor, and the public agency loses control of these assets, it has lost its ability to bargain

for a lower price or a more effective service.

Ex. New York City School Buses. Chap. 4

5-Public Contracting is different from Private Contracting. Public contracting must be tightly constrained by accountability rules that are designed to ensure that public money is spent on the intended public purpose. Otherwise, money spent in the name of the people is easily diverted to the pockets of the public officials or power brokers who fashion the contracts as well as to the contractors themselves. We need to recognize this inflexibility as the price to be paid to prevent corruption and give all bidders a fair opportunity to win public contracts.

Ex. Westchester County, NY Medical Center Parking Structure. Chap. 5

6- Compare three alternatives. A relevant comparison is between (1) the agency as it now exists, (2) contracting as it is likely to exist, and (3) in-house service provision as it can feasibly be improved (best practice).

Ex. Indianapolis, IN Fleet Services Chap. 6 and Rye Brook NY Fire Services Chap. 4

7- Make meaningful employee participation possible in any attempt to add productivity or cut costs. Employees must be respected for their knowledge and experience as they are well qualified to understand both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the service. If they believe that they have part ownership in the process, they are more likely to assume some risk and to identify with the results no matter how painful the short-term adjustments are. The most valuable capital asset that any organization possesses is the knowledge and experience of its members. The greatest detriment to bureaucracies is that they tend to accumulate fat around the middle (in the form of middle managers). If the 'powers that be' are willing to permit line employees to look at overhead, the latter frequently uncover some of the greatest sources of immediate savings.

Ex. Fort Lauderdale, FL Maintenance Dept. Chap. 4.

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MIRAMAR LANDFILL: a public asset that benefits all San Diegans



San Diego residents and businesses send more than a million tons of waste a year to Miramar Landfill for disposal or recycling. Far more than a “dump,” Miramar Landfill is a complicated structure precisely engineered to maximize space and minimize toxic liquid and gas emissions. The only public landfill in San Diego, it is a valuable asset to the city – producing energy and revenue, providing community services and promoting environmental preservation and recycling.



Rigorous standards and innovation: Miramar landfill opened in 1959, on a site no one would choose for a landfill today. Its 1400 acres feature streams, rare wetlands and fault lines. It is close to homes, businesses, major roads and the Navy’s Miramar Air Station. Despite the sensitive location, the city has operated the landfill for five decades with no significant accident or leakage. Beyond rigorous standards, the Miramar staff has developed new techniques for handling waste that minimize environmental impacts -- making San Diego a world leader in waste management.

A money-maker for San Diego: The landfill is a self-supporting, revenue-producing enterprise. Miramar operates as a business, charging fees for services rather than taxes, and brings in about \$6 million a year more than it costs to operate. All the revenue goes into the City’s Refuse Disposal Fund (RDF), which is separate from the tax-supported General Fund. Through the RDF, the landfill funds many vital community services (see chart on next page).

A renewable energy source: Miramar landfill also

provides its own power source – electricity created from gas generated under the surface as trash decomposes. The captured gas produces enough electricity to be self-sufficient and also power the city’s wastewater treatment plants and sewage processing.

Direct Public Services

Miramar provides residents and small businesses with an affordable place to take trash. By contrast, the private landfill in San Diego, Sycamore Canyon Landfill, charges \$64 per ton compared to \$31 per ton at Miramar. Dozens of small businesses use Miramar, including builders, landscapers, haulers, and maintenance companies who use the landfill to dispose of debris and yard waste that dumpsters can’t accommodate. As an added service to the community, Miramar waives its disposal fees for non-profits, such as the Salvation Army and Goodwill. Miramar staff also run the Greenery, where they process yard and food waste to produce mulch and compost, available to city residents free or at low cost. The Greenery also produces and sells wood chips in a variety of colors. Besides the benefit for individual gardens and landscaping, these products are used in San Diego’s parks and public spaces and to prevent erosion at local closed landfills.

Miramar Landfill operates the largest native plant nursery in California, growing plants to replace any disturbed by the landfill and to sell or donate to the public to promote our natural ecosystem. The plants help provide badly needed habitats for endangered native animals.

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If anyone has a paper shredder and could shred copies of checks that have come to the League office, we would very much appreciate it.

Please contact Beryl Flom, (858) 459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net

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8- Removing Politics from Contracting.

One of the worst maladies of modern contracting is the corrosive impact of influence peddling on public officials. The potential for personal gain through contractors' shortcuts is always present. **There is a special burden on those who champion privatization to ensure that they are an equally strong voice in the battle against corruption and influence peddling.**

A first step is to require that any firms and their principals who engage in public contracting are prohibited from contributing money to politicians who can influence contract policy or buying gifts for officials who have input to the awarding of contracts. A meaningful firewall that can effectively divide contracting from politics is a vital necessity. Companies that have been found guilty of the above practices should be barred from future public contracting.

A particularly distasteful aspect of public contracting is

the revolving door syndrome, in which officials who award lucrative public contracts leave public service shortly thereafter to work for the contractors to whom they awarded the contract. Requiring a public official to wait three years before being employed in such a manner would adequately protect the public treasury.



The management of public services must be removed from the ideological battle about the size of government. A simple separation of the two is easily achieved by requiring that before a privatization proceeds, it must pass muster as a cost-effective, comparable-quality alternative. All proposed privatizations should be subjected to a cost analysis conducted by the government auditor. This forces privatization out of the realm of the ideological and into that of the practical. One of the most successful pieces of legislation to mandate this is the Pacheco Act in Massachusetts (1993).

Ex. Westchester County, Chap. 5
New York City, Tammany Hall, Chap 7

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City Services Funded by the Miramar Landfill



Maintaining Closed Landfill and Burn Ash Dumps	Maintenance and monitoring of 16 closed landfills and older sites where unsorted trash was burned	\$3 Million
Illegal Dumping Clean-Up	In 2010, crews cleaned up 14,476 illegal dumps in streets, alleys, and canyons	\$1.8 Million
Code Enforcement	Solid waste code enforcement officers ensure litter, recycling, and dumping laws enforced	\$1.7 Million
Public Trash Receptacles	270,000 stops per year to collect waste from public trash cans	\$1.2 Million
Community Cleanups	Pickups for large items and extra waste that will not fit into curbside bins	\$685,000
Community Outreach and Education	Education and outreach for schools, businesses, and neighborhoods, promoting "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" programs	\$140,000
Dead Animal Cleanup	Pickup of almost 4,000 animals in streets and alleys per year	\$120,000

Colorado River Aqueduct Inspection Trip

To provide a unique opportunity to learn about current and historical water issues affecting our region from a statewide and local perspective, the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) sponsor “inspection trips” of the Colorado River Aqueduct, the California Aqueduct and the American Canal. These all expense paid trips are offered to business leaders and board of directors of community organizations.

The hope is that these trips provide participants with a greater understanding of the water supply challenges that are affecting our region’s economy and quality of life and that information gained on the trip will be disseminated back to their businesses and organizations.

I have had the opportunity to participate in these trips and have come away with a wealth of information about our water systems, not only in San Diego County, but for the state. Metropolitan Water District’s Colorado River Aqueduct is a monument to men and women of foresight and to engineers of consummate skill. It also is a heritage for current residents and future generations of Southern Californians.

About half the water that Southern California drinks and uses has traveled great distances – hundreds of miles from either Northern California or from the Colorado River. The Colorado River Aqueduct, operated by the MWD, is one of three major water delivery systems serving a 5,200 square-mile area of the Southern California coastal plain. Metropolitan is a regional water wholesaler that provides water for 26 member public agencies to serve more than 18 million people in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. Most member agencies have their own water

sources, such as wells, and purchase the balance of the water they need from Metropolitan.

In San Diego County, the 1991 draught caught our local San Diego County Water Authority “off guard”. Thus began their campaign of conservation of water, recycling water, and water storage. The San Vicente Reservoir in Lakeside is currently undergoing a \$482 million – 30 year bond renovation to increase the capacity of the reservoir by 500 acres. This translates to a water supply for an additional 300,000 households. Currently the reservoir serves two million people. The dam is being raised an

additional 117 feet or two and a half times its current height. Upon completion the dam will be 34 stories high, able to resist a 7.5 magnitude earthquake, and expands the aqueduct system for an



additional six months of emergency water storage for distribution throughout the county through pipeline projects.

The information gleaned from these inspection trips is fascinating. Think of a map covering several states with dozens of pin points on it that seem to have no rhyme or reason . Participants walk away with not only a better appreciation of the aqueduct system, but a clear understanding of the overall water picture with all the dots connected.

For more information on the current water situation in San Diego County or if you would like to participate in an inspection trip, please contact me to get in touch with representatives of these agencies.

— Delores Chavez-Harmes, Treasurer

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Jean Word, Voter Service

I come from a small Illinois town that resembles the many others that dot the prairie. After WWII, newly-improved highways began providing access to larger shopping centers and these small towns began dying. What is left of our town is located 100 miles straight south of Chicago. I grew up there in an atmosphere where I never felt that being female would keep me from doing whatever I wanted to do.

My dad's family were teachers and telegraphers. One of my aunts was my teacher in second grade, and my dad was my teacher in eighth grade. Another aunt was a telegrapher for Western Union in Chicago. My grandmother who lived in the same town as we did began working as a telegrapher for the railroad in the early 1900s, many years before she could vote. She had learned telegraphy from my grandfather. I never thought to ask my grandmother how she felt when she finally could vote. I wish I had!

At family gatherings politics was often a part of the conversations. I can still hear my grandmother making comments about Frances Perkins. I didn't know then that Perkins was FDR's Secretary of Labor.

Early on I decided that when I finished college I would go see the world. So, much to my mother's chagrin, when I graduated I took a teaching position on Vashon Island in Puget Sound. It is reached by ferry only from either Seattle or Tacoma. Next I taught a little closer to home, Midland County, Michigan. Then I set off to work for Army Special Services in Europe. I was lucky and was assigned to a post a few miles from Heidelberg, Germany. From Heidelberg, you could reach most any European city or country you wanted to in five hours by train. And I did.

I stayed there for 2-1/2 years and when not working, traveled everywhere I could this side of the "Iron Curtain." I did cross the East German border once on a military train to visit Berlin and went on a U.S. Army sponsored bus tour of East Berlin. No photographs were allowed and no getting off the bus!



When I returned from Germany, I taught briefly in Illinois, but long enough to join the League of Women Voters in Danville. Some years before a friend and colleague on Vashon had mentioned that if she were where she could, she would join the League of Women Voters. So, I was where I could and decided to try it. I found it stimulating to be among a group of women discussing important issues, so when I moved to other places I continued to seek out the League.

I moved to San Diego in 1962 and, of course, joined League. I attended the Mission Hills unit which met in homes near where I lived. Muriel Goldhammer was president at the time, as I recall. When we moved to Chula Vista, I joined the League there. We met twice a month to discuss the issues. There were about 100 members in that League. I taught piano privately there and was a part-

time instructor of music courses at Southwestern College for a while.

For some years after I left Chula Vista it was not possible to be active in League, so I signed up for national membership. During that time I decided to become a school librarian. I enrolled at San Jose State and spent several summers there earning a Master of Library Science degree. In 1977, I received my degree and was also selected for Phi Kappa Phi. When we moved to Mira Mesa in 1986, I rejoined San Diego League and attended the Mira Mesa unit which was being formed at that time.

A few years ago I mentioned to my friend from Vashon that she had been instrumental in my joining the League and the pleasure and satisfaction I have received from being a member. She said, "I never suggested the League of Women Voters to you. The group that I would have mentioned was the National League of American Pen Women."

Well I may have gotten it wrong, but it turned out to be right.



ILO Quarterly Reports

The League of Women Voters of San Diego County, also known as the ILO (Inter-League Organization), publishes its board reports quarterly. The whole report can be found at LWVSDC website www.lwvsdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org We have consolidated our reports as short introductions, similar to on-line newspapers and magazines, to give you a suggestion of what is in each report. These reports can be shared with friends, neighbors, and elected officials.

— Jeanne Brown VP/Administration, LWVSDC

Health Care activities have focused largely on health care reform with the Affordable Care Act, a San Diego County prevention campaign funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and visits by League members at community clinics in San Diego County. The Health Care Interest Group of LWV North Coast San Diego County met on Tuesday, February 1 with two guests from the health committee of the Long Island, New York League of Women Voters. Sylvia Hampton gave an overview of Medicare issues with health care reform and handed out materials.

— Vicki Beck, VP/Health Care

Natural Resources We are continuing to monitor the progress of the County General Plan update. The County League presented a statement at the October 20 hearing (already posted on our website), at which time the vote was continued to yesterday, February 9. The Board of Supervisors voted to continue the matter until March 16. The other major issue we are following is the complex proposal to widen the northern portion of I-5. The North Coast League has taken the lead on this issue, and their statement is found on the website. www.lwvsdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org

— Mary Hanson, Director, Natural Resources

Hunger and Food Stamp Issues San Diego still remain the lowest city in providing food stamps for those in need. (see www.voiceofsandiego.com date 1/31/11) In December the Board of Supervisors accepted 69 recommendations from a task force to improve many of the current barriers. (See SNAP workforce report at www.lwvsdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org The BOS then gave Health and Human services 90 days to develop a plan for implementing them. It also required HHS to provide a monthly report of its progress on the recommendations to the Social Services Advisory Board .

— Marjie Larson, Social Policy

Education At this point in time, budget problems are based on uncertainty of funding from all levels of government. We do not know if we will have a state ballot measure to maintain tax increases. If we do have the choice, will the electorate vote 'yes'? One of the questions plaguing education administrators is the decision as to when and whether to send out layoff notices. There are contractual obligations. However, with such budget uncertainty, administrators are loath to pink slip teachers only to later wish to rehire them and find that they are no longer available. The number of school days is currently 175. However, that could be changed and decreased.

— Adrienne Schere, Director, Education

Mental Health Interfaith Community Services recently opened their third Fairweather Lodge in Escondido. This one is a permanent home for six previously homeless veterans, each in rooms of their own with the opportunity for a part time job to increase monthly benefits. I have not seen this lodge but understand it is as lovely and comfortable a home as the other two and brings the total number of homeless men and women housed in the three permanent facilities to 18 in the last three years.

— Liz Kruidenier, VP/Mental Health

Five Year Report on County Population Change, Recycling Rate, and Landfill Site. The County of San Diego has written a report for the state with interesting numbers regarding the effect of the recession on our waste disposal habits. "San Diego County experienced a high rate of population and economic growth from 2000 to 2008...Countywide, population increased 11% with one jurisdiction growing by 50% since 2000 (San Marcos) and one jurisdiction dropping by 4% (Coronado). The countywide employment rate grew by 7%.

— Beryl Flom, LWVSD

Smart Voter This fall there were over 500 local candidates and 14 local measures on county ballots. Members from our four local leagues sent invitation letters to all candidates, posted information on the 14 local measures on Smart Voter, publicized the site, located and posted numerous informational links, read every entry to ensure the absence of slanderous material directed at other candidates, distributed thousands of colorful Smart Voter bookmarks, and followed up with candidates who procrastinated before participating.

— Joyce Joseph, Director, Smart Voter



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