

THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

Website: www.LWVSSMC.org Phone: (650) 325-5780 E-mail: info@LWVSSMC.org

November 2009

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BACK COVER

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LOCAL ELECTIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Remember To Vote !!

Timely Topics Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7:00 PM

"CLIMATE CHANGE: A Perspective for LWV Action"



Our Presenter:

Dr. Evan Hughes

**Consultant, Biomass Energy and
Geothermal Energy**

Come and hear one of our own League leader's perspective on climate change and priorities for education and action for and by the League of Women Voters: San Mateo County; Bay Area; State; National; and even globally. Evan has conducted and led research on renewable energy for over thirty years at SRI International, the California Energy Commission, EPRI, and as an independent consultant.

Meeting Room

Menlo Park Library

801 Alma Street, Menlo Park

Transportation can be arranged.

Contact Ellen Hope: ellenjhope@aol.com

or (650) 839-8647

INVITE A FRIEND ! THEY'LL BE GLAD YOU DID !

FROM THE PRESIDENT



By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have conducted four local candidates' forums, a big job ably coordinated by Debby Maio with help from other League members. This is a critical part of our voter education mission and we appreciate her commitment to the task.

Not teaching this semester has given me some time to work on other tasks that have needed attention, like our website. Plans to transition to the State League's EasyWeb server have been on the proverbial drawing board for a while. The State League has called upon us to get on board with a consistent look and a readily editable format for our events and messages. We'll be able to provide links to articles of interest and videos of our monthly speakers, spotlight members, and hopefully attract new members into the ranks. I am really excited about it.

In advance of County League Day, North/Central League President Jackie Jacobberger and I are coordinating the County Positions wording in our respective Rosters. We're not rewriting history, just fixing grammatical oversights and dates, etc., to ensure consistency. It's actually been very insightful. Our other mutual task has been to coordinate election oversight duties and charges for the upcoming Service Employees International Union elections in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. It's an area in which the League excels and can be paid to do, so we're interested!

Jamie Shepard, Board President
867-0885 jamieshepard@att.net

BOARD BRIEFS

October Board Meeting

Marlene Sterner has had to resign as our League treasurer. Jack Morris volunteered to fill in as interim treasurer, and the Board gratefully approved his appointment.

- We are currently negotiating with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to monitor their upcoming elections. President Jamie Shepard is working with other area League presidents to coordinate our rates and services.
- The Board decided to recommend to the Education Fund Board a yearly assessment of \$2500 each from the Ed Fund and New Voices funds. This will cover a variety of operational services, including bookkeeping, maintaining records and filing tax returns, office use, and liability insurance.
- Our League will host the County League Day this year. The date, program and venue are yet to be determined.
- Next Board meeting will be the second Monday, November 9th, at 7pm, at Lucile Spurlock's. This change accommodates travel schedules and election day work by various Board members.

Shirley Des Marais, Board Secretary

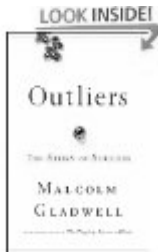


GOING GREEN: VOTER BY EMAIL?

At the Board meeting we discussed updating our website with the State League's EasyWeb. This would allow the possibility of providing our Voter as an electronic newsletter, and we could provide more up-to-the-minute information with "instant" mailing. We could include more images and links to other websites. It would also save printing, paper, postage and handling.

Changing over would be a long-term process and we would certainly continue to mail paper copies to the members who request it. At the October 5th meeting, the Board started to discuss this and decided to continue the discussion. In the meantime, we will streamline our mailing list to eliminate duplicate copies to the same address, add League-A-Thon donors and City Mayors' offices. An electronic link will be emailed to other Leagues and officers.

OUR LEAGUE READS...



Our League's Book Group meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:30pm. This month's book is **Outliers** by Malcolm Gladwell. League members and friends are

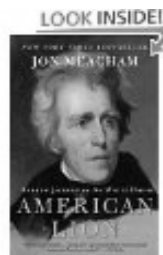
welcomed to participate in the discussion on November 19. Contact July Orttung for the exact location.

DECEMBER: No meeting scheduled.

JANUARY: We will read

American Lion by Jon Meacham, available now at Keplers.

Judy Orttung
234-9837
jorttung@att.net



SHOPPING AT KEPLER'S BENEFITS OUR LEAGUE

When the books for our Book Group arrive at Kepler's, they are displayed for book group discount under LWV San Mateo County on the shelf where all the many local book group selections are displayed. Always remember to ask Kepler's to credit your purchases (Book Group or any other) to our League for a 10% donation.

DON'T FORGET TO DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT KEPLERS TOO!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WE WELCOME A NEW MEMBER:

Anne Campbell
237A Wheeler Avenue
Redwood City 94061

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Anne De Carli has moved to 1145 Marcussen, Menlo Park

R U GOOD WITH MONEY? League Treasurer Needed

Here is a great opportunity for someone with good money management skills. Veteran Treasurer Jack Morris has come to our rescue (*again, our thanks*) but we really need someone new to assume this critical position. This person will manage both our operating account and the Ed Fund with monthly reports to the Board. Please contact Jack Morris for details: Call (650) 325-1886 or email jackhm@att.net



BAY AREA LEAGUE NEWS:

"SAVING THE BAY" DOCUMENTARY AIRS ON KQED/KTEH

"Saving the Bay", previewed at our 2007 Bay Area League Day, continues to rerun at times until Nov. 12 on local PBS channels 9, 10, and the new 189 and 190. In 1959 and later, LWV member Sylvia McLaughlin, with two other Berkeley women, led the "Save the Bay" effort. See the archives of BayAreaMonitor.org for the Bay Area League's 2006 article. See SavingTheBay.net to check the schedule for the four 1-hour segments.

WINTER "SPARE THE AIR" NIGHTTIME ALERTS RESUME

The Bay Area League's Bay Area Monitor has a Page 1 & 2 article on the winter season hazard of particulate matter from wood smoke and the 2008 regulations in the new Oct/Nov issue: www.bayareamonitor.org.

Also in the issue are updates on the water issues: conservation of water, and restoration of the Delta.

SAVE THE DATE: "CLIMATE CHANGE" SAT., JAN. 30, 2010

Bay Area League Day, in Oakland, 9am-2pm, on land use and CO2 emissions(SB375).

STATE LEAGUE NEWS & ADVOCACY UPDATES

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS AND PROCESS

Great progress is being made on the regulations for selecting the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The revised draft regulations and public input are posted on the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) website. The LWV of California and our partners submitted detailed comments on the process and application requirements and we continue to work on the regulations, the commission application, and plans for outreach to communities around the state. Interested in applying for the Commission and want to know what it takes to serve? Do you know somebody who would make a great candidate? See the BSA website.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

As we move into the fall, we're seeing more activity on constitutional reform by California Forward, Repair California, and the state legislature. The recently-formed joint Senate and Assembly Select Committee on Reform will hold hearings around the state beginning later this month to discuss possible reforms in budget and finance, the initiative process, and the state/local relationship. The League will look for opportunities to present our relevant positions on these issues.

Also watch for League educational materials to engage California voters on the broader questions of constitutional reform and why state government remains year after year in both constant turmoil and paralysis.

LEAGUE-SUPPORTED BILLS AWAIT GOVERNOR'S ACTION

Would allowing 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote help more young people establish a lifelong habit of voting? Would it make high

school civics education more effective? On October 1, the LWVC urged Governor Schwarzenegger to sign AB 30, which would authorize pre-registration for 17-year-olds. Read our statement of support: www.LWVC.org The LWVC Bill Status Report (BSR) reports the status of all bills on which the LWVC has taken a stand. Read it for a preview of the action in 2010: www.lwvc.org. Check the BSR to see what other League-supported bills have been sent to the Governor's desk.

LOCAL EVENT ON A STATE ISSUE (PALO ALTO)

"Ending the Death Penalty: How to Make Change at the Local Level"

TUESDAY, NOV 17, 2009 7-9 PM

CONGREGATION BETH AM, BEIT KEILLAH ROOM, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos

Speakers: Judy Kerr, RN

Spokesperson, California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Murder Victim Family Member, Albany, CA

Following her brother's murder in 2003, Judy Kerr has been the Victim Liaison and Spokesperson for California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (CCV). Judy maintains a compassionate view that the victims in our current system include both murder victims' family members and the families of convicted killers.

Natasha Minsker, Attorney

Death Penalty Policy Director of the ACLU of Northern California.

Ms. Minsker advocates reforming capital sentencing procedures and the eventually ending the death penalty in California. In 2008, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty honored her as one of the "Abolitionists of the Year."

Doris Petersen, LWV Palo Alto

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

League of Women Voters, 1730 M Street., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036, 202-429-1965 www.LWV.org



HEALTHCARE REFORM

On Sept. 30 the LWVUS posted this statement on the need for a public program in the reform of healthcare and health insurance:

"The public option is the key to consumer choice and to lowering health care costs. Both are essential elements of health care reform. The Finance Committee's failure will hurt consumers and result in higher costs. How could they be so short-sighted?"

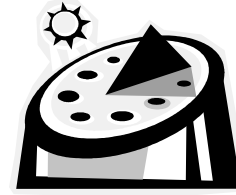
"The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security. Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform and the public option is vital. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option. We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs and providing real choice to consumers.

"The public option is critical to health care reform. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward, not backward, with true health care reform."

CLIMATE CHANGE

Excerpts from a July 2009 statement by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force



"The evidence is clear that human-induced climate change is underway. The emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases—primarily by the burning of fossil fuels—has increased the blanket of heat-trapping gases in Earth's atmosphere. . . .

The United States has made a commitment to stabilize the climate. The Senate ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, joining over 180 nations in a commitment to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations." . . .

Prompt action is required to slow the build-up of greenhouse gases. According to the IPCC, global emissions must peak and begin declining before 2015. There is strong scientific consensus that warming of more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels will lead to irreversible damage to our planet. . . .


The United States must adopt an aggressive trajectory for reducing its emissions. The United States must stop the "Business as Usual" emissions of greenhouse gases and impose aggressive emission reductions starting in 2010. We support adoption of a firm, verifiable cap that reduces emissions at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. We have the capacity, responsibility and economic imperative to lead this effort internationally.

The U.S. has met great challenges before—such as World War II and space exploration. Since we are responsible for much of the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, we need to accept responsibility for being the leader in solving the global climate challenge. Our efforts will transform our way of life by creating a new clean-energy economy and will allow the U.S. to maintain its technological leadership."

UPCOMING EVENTS on THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER		
3 Tues		ELECTION DAY (<i>check our website for our local Candidates Forums and SMART VOTER.org for candidate information</i>)
9 Mon	7 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's home, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, 323-5358 <i>Note: This is a date change from the Board's usual "first Monday" schedule</i>
17 Tues	7pm	PALO ALTO LEAGUE EVENT ON ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY: Congregation Beth Am, Beit Keillah Room, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos. See page 4
17 Tues	7pm	"CLIMATE CHANGE " (OUR SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY LEAGUE "TIMELY TOPICS" MEETING): Menlo Park Library, Meeting Room, 801 Alma, Menlo Park. See Page 1 (cover).
19 Thurs	7:30 pm	LEAGUE BOOK GROUP discusses <u>Outliers</u> by Malcolm Gladwell. Location to be determined. Contact: Judy Orttung, 234-9837, jorttung@att.net. See page 3
DECEMBER		
7 Mon	7 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's home, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park, 323-5358
???	6 pm	HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING (<i>Check our website and next month's VOTER for details as they become available.</i>)

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	League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County 713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9 Menlo Park, CA 94025 Phone: (650) 325-5780 E-mail: info @ LWVSSMC.org	Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit # 256 Menlo Park, CA
Now's A Great Time To Recruit New Members to the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County. By the way, have you renewed? Annual dues \$75. Make check payable to LWVSSMC. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Dues are not tax-deductible but contributions to our Education Fund are. Keep democracy alive. SUPPORT THE LEAGUE! Name _____ Street _____ City, Zip _____ Phone _____ Home or Cell Email _____		Dated Material Please Expedite <i>Address Service Requested</i>
Return this form and your \$75 check to: LWV of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9, Menlo Park, CA 94025. (Note: Membership dues are <u>not</u> tax deductible)		