



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

DECEMBER 2011

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DID YOU MISS RENEWAL TIME? IT WAS IN JULY, FOR 2011-12 YEAR: Use the form mailed to you (via US Postal Service) in June, or the form on Page 8, to renew NOW!

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND PLACE !!!!

FINAL IN OUR EDUCATION SERIES:

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30, 7PM

Deborah Stipek

Professor of Education, Stanford University

"School reform in the US: Is there hope? "



Time: 7:00pm; Place: Sunset Room in the Veterans Memorial Community Center, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City

Deborah Stipek has just retired from 10 years as Dean of the School of Education at Stanford. Dr. Stipek's scholarship concerns instructional effects on children's achievement motivation, early childhood education, elementary education and school reform. In addition to her scholarship, she has an interest in policies affecting children and education. She served for five years on the Board on Children, Youth and Families at the National Research Council; she was the Chair of National Research Council Committee for Increasing High School Students' Engagement and Motivation to Learn and she directed the MacArthur Foundation Network on Teaching and Learning.

Dr. Stipek's current research is on achievement motivation, on early childhood and elementary education, and on school reform. She was the leader at Stanford involved in setting up the East Palo Alto Academy, a small, neighborhood public high school that is preparing its diverse student body for college and the 21st century workplace. It is a charter public school and was formed to meet the needs of students by combining the most successful models of urban school reform with highly qualified teachers and a curriculum that connects the work of the school to the life of the community. As a charter public school, it is open to all students, has no admission requirements and does not charge tuition. It was created through collaboration between Stanford University, Aspire Public Schools and Ravenswood School District. The EPAA is part of Stanford New Schools, is operated by Stanford New Schools and is chartered by the Ravenswood City School District.

Come and bring a friend, especially teachers, principals and others (parents!) with special interest or expertise regarding schools and our public education system. *This meeting is open to all !!!*

**HOLIDAY PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING:
Wednesday, December 14, 6pm, at Kathleen Weisenberg's
167 Heather Drive, Atherton (See Pages 6 and 7. Important !!!)**

**For information or help with transportation contact:
Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com, (650) 839-8647**

FROM THE BOARD*

by Janet Wells

Civic Engagement

As we look at how we can get more people educated in the voting process, one glaring issue has re-emerged, voter disenfranchisement. How could this happen? Let's take a look at the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which was renewed in 2009 but states are trying to get around the preclearance that must be sent to the U.S. Justice Department for approval.

Current states that have proposals or laws of voter suppression before the Justice Department under the guise of stopping voter fraud are South Carolina, Texas, and Mississippi.

U.S. Senator Durbin states "some of the new voting laws would reduce early voting days, impose new rules on voter registration drives (Florida LWV have backed off for fear of being sued by the state) and make it tougher to get citizen initiatives on the ballot."

In 2009-Chief Justice Roberts wrote "a district could to 'bail out' from coverage under the Voting Rights Act—temporarily avoid the constitutional issue. Richard L. Hansen, professor of law and political science at UC Irvine states "this opinion of Justice Roberts sounded a clear warning that Congress had better fix the Act." Congress has done nothing to date.

The preclearance provision is under assault by Southern states who are trying to make it much harder for minorities, elderly, students, and lower income citizens to vote. This will also have an impact on redistricting by allowing state legislatures to gerrymander the voting areas to lessen the voting strength in certain areas.

The NAACP wrote in its latest report "there are 5 million people and counting who will be affected by passed and pending changes to voting laws in states around the country."

Some say we need a new Voting Rights Act; I say we need to replace the "Act" with a comprehensive constitutional amendment. Acts have a time certain and must always be voted on at the end of that time or it dies. Voter rights can no longer be left up for debate. They must be permanent and not left up to Congress to be "tinkered" with.

The question then becomes, how do we re-engage the public with a new clarion call for Voter Rights? It's time to not only use our feet in protest but also with the "mouse."

*Janet Wells,
Membership Chair*

** This "From The Board" column will be written by a different Board member each month.*

BOARD NOTES

At the November 7 meeting, the Board:

Agreed to cosponsor kickoff for the Peninsula/South Bay Disclose Act campaign to pass AB 1148, the Disclose Act, endorse by LWVC;

Heard plans to increase membership and learned we have two new members;

Discussed upcoming speakers, including Deborah Stipek whose talk has been changed from November 29 to November 30; and

Learned that a new Saltworks proposal should be available by the end of March.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 4, at 7pm at Lucile Spurlock's.

Lucile Spurlock, Board Secretary

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The LWVSSMC (League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County) organized and conducted five candidate forums leading up to the November 8th elections. These were:

1. **Redwood City Elementary School District Board** (video on Patch—Redwood City)
2. **Redwood City - City Council** (video by the City's system in the Council Chamber)
3. **Sequoia Union High School District Board**
4. **Woodside Elementary School District Board**
5. **Menlo Park Fire District Board**

Presenting these Candidate Forums are one of the key functions that we perform to fulfill our mission to advance informed voting at the local level, joining with state and national levels of the League in the major task of creating an informed electorate, an electorate that comes to be perceived by elected officials as an informed one and one that will know the issues and vote from many perspectives, but informed perspectives. To take part in organizing or conducting our next series of LWV Candidate Forums, contact our President, Lisa Conrad, or her assistant, who is our immediate past president Debby Maio, as follows:

*Lisa Conrad, 327-3288 or darnoc@earthlink.net
Debby Maio, 368-4891 or dmmaio@mac.com*

**PALO ALTO JOURNALISM LUNCHEON:
Sat., Dec. 10th. See Page 7.**

**IF YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR
VOTER VIA USMAIL, SEND YOUR
STREET ADDRESS TO
info@lwvssmc.org.**

NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH REPORT

Students who participated in last year's New Voices project at Menlo-Atherton High School have provided some wonderful feedback about their experience working on making a video on a topic concerning their life at M-A High School. Here are some quotes in answer to a question: ***Do you think any differently about the role of video (in your life and in your community) since you participated in the New Voices program? What has changed for you?***

- I feel like I helped the community by putting an issue out there and actually spending time on this particular issue to bring awareness to the community itself.
- I think it made me think about different things from a different perspective.
- The people in my community are just like the students at Menlo Atherton. They will give you the "look" like you don't belong here. Which makes me uncomfortable. I don't care now.
- It opened up thoughts and questions about society in general.

A new group of students have started working with Ana and Tanuj and will be discussing topics of interest to themselves and their community. Soon they will begin learning about making videos to put their ideas into film. Visit newvoicesforyouth.org and click on Screening Room to see "The Green" – last year's project.

New Voices is a youth outreach project sponsored by the LWVs of Palo Alto and South San Mateo County. Join our steering committee by contacting Veronica Tincher in Palo Alto or Kathleen Weisenberg in South San Mateo County.

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will not meet in December. Our book selection for January is ***The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*** by David McCullough.

Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or jorttung@comcast.net



Roger Noll on California State Government Reform

On October 27th our "Timely Topics" speaker was Roger Noll, professor emeritus of economics at Stanford. His topic was Redistricting Reform, and he began by saying that redistricting reform was not enough. He covered other actual and possible future reforms, including campaign finance and major restructuring of state government as described in ***Constitutional Reform in California***, a book assembled by Professors Noll and Bruce Cain of UC Berkeley for the 1994-96 California Constitution Revision Commission.

[continued]

On redistricting, he presented a map showing which Assembly districts are "contestable" according to a criterion used by political scientists. His map used the district lines drawn by the new Citizens Redistricting Commission that was set up when voters approved Proposition 11 in November 2008. A district is "contestable" if the registration advantage is less than 10% in Democratic districts or 5% in Republican districts. His result showed an increase in contestable Assembly districts from 9 under the old lines to 11 under the new, an increase of only 2 out of 80. The map illustrated a problem facing the Commission: the western portion of the state is overwhelmingly Democratic and the eastern portion is overwhelmingly Republican, so that creating many contestable districts requires narrow east-west districts that divide counties and cities and so do not correspond to communities.

Professor Noll discussed term limits, arguing that short term limits empower (1) the two major political parties, (2) atypically ideological party members who are more likely than moderates to vote in primaries, and (3) major donors to campaigns. He also discussed restructuring the Legislature to create 120 districts in a unicameral Legislature, combining the current Assembly and Senate. California, the most populous state, has one of the smallest legislatures, which makes districts extremely large by national standards. He argued that smaller districts create more homogeneous constituencies that are easier to represent and that cause elected members to be better known by constituents. Still better representation could be accomplished by doubling the number of seats to 240. Smaller districts reduce the amount of money needed to run an effective campaign. In large districts, candidates must use expensive television ads, mass mailings and phone calls to become known outside the fraction of the district where the candidate has become known in local office. Smaller districts with better-known candidates also reduce the effectiveness of negative campaigning that feeds on lack of familiarity with candidates. Professor Noll also observed that the primary reason for having two legislative houses disappeared when, in the 1960s, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all state legislative districts must have equal populations, i.e., one person one vote, rather than one senator for each county or group of counties. As a result, the state senate no longer provides different representation than the Assembly, but has enormous districts (nearly a million people) for which effective representation of all constituents is impossible.

At the end of an informative Q&A session, Roger Noll, when asked to name the most important potential reforms, suggested two non-redistricting ones that he had also discussed in his lecture: (1) defuse the State finance "time bomb" of huge unfunded pension *[continued on Page 4]*

[continuation of Roger Noll on California government reform] liabilities, and (2) reform the initiative process. [Ed. Note: Initiative and referendum reform is the subject of our state-wide LWVC update study in 2012.] Earlier Professor Noll said that the cumulative effect of several decades of initiatives is to constrain the power of the Legislature and the Governor to adjust policy to changing conditions and, especially, to balance the budget. He proposed that all initiatives be self-financing, and estimated that doing so would reduce the number that pass by two thirds. By self-financing he meant that each initiative must include spending cuts and new revenues to offset its cost.

BAY AREA LEAGUE

Bay Area League Day: “Housing and the Bay Area’s Future”

Three panels will look at the problems facing housing today, including (1) implementation of SB 375, (2) sources and uses of public money, and (3) difficulties of community support.

Saturday, February 4, 9 am to 2 pm

Place: downtown Oakland, site to be confirmed (Unitarian Universalist Church expected as of press time)

The keynote speaker will be **DAVID ROSEN**, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning. There will be panels of experts on these topics:

- meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities' strategy;
- difficulties of financing affordable housing;
- how to serve the hardest to house.

There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience during each panel.

Cost: In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch); at the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch).

Registration: Please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, to **LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.**

Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to editor@bayareamonitor.org.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2011-12

Remember to send in your check for \$75, with the form you received in June. (Also, please fill in the survey form to indicate your interests.)

Use the form on Page 6 of this *VOTER*, if you do not have the June letter. Please note two things:

1. Our League’s year for membership is July-June, not the calendar year.
2. Membership is now local not national; the LWVUS no longer enrolls “national members” and this means that any money sent to LWVUS is now considered a contribution, and is not treated as dues.

BAY AREA LEAGUE

FROM THE *Bay Area Monitor*

Senior Mobility and the Silver Tsunami

(Excerpts from an article by Alec MacDonald, Editor of the Bay Area Monitor, a publication of the League of Women Voters—Bay Area, 3 Oct. 2011)

Rosie the Riveter . . . Of the thousands of women who labored in Richmond’s Kaiser shipyards during World War II, a few still live in the vicinity. . . . Sam Casas said he’s glad to lend that hand. As paratransit coordinator for the City of Richmond, part of his job entails meeting the transportation needs of the elderly — including some Rosies, he revealed. . . . Casas spoke as one of eight expert panelists at a recent educational forum entitled “Senior Mobility and the Silver Tsunami” held in the Berkeley Public Library on September 21. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, the event addressed a mounting challenge confronting this region and the nation at large: meeting the transportation demands of a sky-rocketing elderly population.

By 2020, the number of seniors in the Bay Area will increase by 35 percent from the 2010 census as the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age. Often referred to as the “silver tsunami,” this impending demographic shift may necessitate widespread adjustments across many sectors of society. A reevaluation of transportation in particular will be required, given that aging drivers eventually face the prospect of giving up their car keys, leading to potentially devastating isolation for those who live in neighborhoods lacking alternatives to auto travel.

Citing AARP research on the subject, panelist Shannon Tracey noted that “seniors age 65 and older who no longer drive make 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent fewer trips to shop or eat out, and 65 percent fewer trips to visit friends and family.” . . .

When a group Tracey collaborates with did look at the transportation system, it found that more than 15.5 million seniors will live in communities with inadequate access by 2015. Transportation for America, a national coalition with hundreds of partners seeking transportation reform, released its findings this past summer in the report *Aging in Place, Stuck without Options*. The report ranked metropolitan areas across the country based on the percentage of seniors underserved by public transportation both now and in the years to come.

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[continued from Page 4] Citing AARP research on the subject, panelist Shannon Tracey noted that “seniors age 65 and older who no longer drive make 15 percent fewer trips to the doctor, 59 percent fewer trips to shop or eat out, and 65 percent fewer trips to visit friends and family.” The field organizer for Oakland-based nonprofit TransForm went on to assert about such trips, “Those are very important pieces of continuing to have a meaningful life and also continuing to have a healthy life. And those are things that we should be paying attention to when we’re looking at our transportation system.”

When a group Tracey collaborates with did look at the transportation system, it found that more than 15.5 million seniors will live in communities with inadequate access by 2015. Transportation for America, a national coalition with hundreds of partners seeking transportation reform, released its findings this past summer in the report Aging in Place, Stuck without Options. The report ranked metropolitan areas across the country based on the percentage of seniors underserved by public transportation both now and in the years to come.

Service providers across the Bay Area aim to keep these figures as low as possible. At the forum, representatives from several providers in the East Bay joined Richmond’s Casas to talk about strategies for advancing this goal.

Both the cities of Richmond and Berkeley offer van rides for passengers with wheelchairs, as well as taxi scrip programs. The latter allows qualified participants to pay for standard taxi fare using certificates called scrip that cab drivers can later redeem for payment. Richmond’s program sells subsidized scrip, essentially cutting fares in half, while Berkeley grants a limited amount of free scrip on a monthly basis. Berkeley’s Community Services and Administration Manager Drew King mentioned that his city connects people to the many senior centers around town via shuttles, and Casas put in that Richmond has shuttles as well, but for rental to assisted living facilities that wish to take residents on group outings. . . .

. . . Panelist Andy Gaines described one particular volunteer driver program sponsored by Ashby Village, a new local nonprofit situated within “a national movement” which views independent living as “a resource that we want to cultivate.” The organization’s members receive a variety of benefits, but its executive director divulged that the most popular has been the ability to request rides from a corps of vetted volunteer drivers. Gaines added that Ashby Village has been exploring partnerships with other entities to “combine our resources so that we can more effectively serve people who are aging.”

On the topic of resources, panelist Krystle Pasco brought with her a broad listing of those available to transportation providers in Alameda County. In addition to this toolkit, the outreach coordinator for the Alameda County Transportation Commission furnished copies of various other publications she regularly distributes in her role promoting paratransit education. Pasco also took the opportunity to showcase two of her agency’s free transportation services, one for patients discharged from participating hospitals, and another for wheelchair and scooter owners whose devices malfunction.

Panelist Bonnie Nelson similarly asked attendees to get involved. The founding principal of the transportation planning firm Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates keyed in on the public’s role in procuring financial support for the various mobility options discussed at the forum. Specifically, she encouraged the audience to participate in upcoming meetings [continued]

[continued from at left] pertaining to possible augmentation of Measure B, a sales tax mechanism that in part pays for senior transportation services in Alameda County.

“At the same time that we are seeing the senior population begin to really escalate, we are seeing revenues decline from virtually every funding source . . . funding will be the biggest challenge that we face as we’re looking at population needs increasing.”

While monetary concerns did hang heavy over the conversation, panelists assumed a positive attitude toward the future. Elizabeth Deakin, professor of city and regional planning at UC Berkeley, set this upbeat tone as she stressed the value of collaboration for overcoming economic obstacles and other difficulties. She endorsed networking and data sharing to help advocates advance best practices, and mentioned that graduate students in her department could be worthy recruits for problem solving. Deakin also compelled the League of Women Voters to stay active on this front.

As she said, “I think there’s some tremendous opportunities for all of us to work together, not just for seniors, but for the whole population to make sure that there’s good transit service for everybody.”

To inquire about the possibility of co-sponsoring a senior mobility forum in your community, call the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund at (510) 839-1608.

STATE LEAGUE: LWVC

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM STUDY

In accordance with the approval of delegates at Convention 2011, the LWVC is undertaking an update study of the Initiative and Referendum Process in California. The study will include:

- a review of the current LWVC position on the Initiative and Referendum Process;
- the history of initiative and referendum, with a focus on California;
- how the initiative and referendum processes have changed and are changing;
- identification of key issues for California;
- ideas for change and reform of the initiative and referendum processes; and
- creation of community education and outreach material for use by local Leagues and other groups.

Members of the LWVC Initiative and Referendum Study Committee can be contacted at irstudy@lwvc.org. The tentative schedule for the committee is:

- Study material to local Leagues in summer 2012
 - Local Leagues’ consensus reports due March 2013
- [Ed. Note: The biennial LWVC Convention will be in May 2013.]

Study Materials: “Do We Have To Take This Much Initiative” - LWVC’s Senior Director for Program, Trudy Schafer, led this discussion of the future of initiative and referendum in California as part of the Zócalo Public Square discussions celebrating the 100th anniversary of the initiative and referendum process in California. The discussion asked whether the initiative process advanced the cause of good governance in California, or just contributed to governmental dysfunction? The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles cosponsored the program, thanks to a

[continued on Page 6]

STATE: LWVC

[continued from Page 5] generous donation from Martin Kellner in honor of his wife, Dorothy Kellner, who was president of the LWV Beverly Hills and LWV California. Photos are on Flickr, you can watch the full video, and you can read about it on the Zócalo page. We also have a Facebook group for this study, which members and the public are invited to join. Contact **Helen Hutchison** of the LWVC Board at hhutchison@lwvc.org.

June 5, 2012 Election - Two Primary Systems on One Election Day

Next June, voters will see Presidential Primary candidates on familiar partisan ballots according to political party affiliation. However, for statewide offices (i.e., state constitutional offices, U.S. Congress, and state legislative offices), all candidates running in the Statewide Primary Election for these offices will appear on a single primary election ballot and voters can vote for any candidate. In this Top-Two Open Primary system the top two overall vote-getters – not the top vote-getter from each qualified political party – will move on to the general election. Between now and the June 2012 election California voters can look to the League for reliable information about the changes in the election system, the newly redrawn districts, and overall election news in various ways via LWVC.org:

The League's Education Fund website

Local Leagues' Candidate and Pros and Cons Forums

Easy Voter website



Help Abolish the Death Penalty - Support the SAFE California Act Initiative

The League of Women Voters supports abolition of the death penalty and believes it's time to halt executions in California. The LWVC supports the SAFE California Act, an initiative being circulated for signatures to qualify for the ballot.

This initiative will replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. Some of the savings created by no longer seeking and imposing death sentences would be used to bolster the capacity of law enforcement to solve the serious crimes of rape and homicide. Convicted murderers would be required to work behind bars and pay restitution.

Get involved; visit the California Taxpayers for Justice campaign site.

Roger Noll on California State Government Reform (See Page 3. It was a local event by our own LWVSSMC.)

Our State League: LWVC, 1107 Ninth St., Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone: 916-442-7215, fax: 916-442-7362, email: lwvc@lwvc.org. lwvc.org

NATIONAL: LWVUS

STUDY REPORT: "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"

Our League's "unit meetings" to discuss and check for consensus opinions on 15 questions set forth by the LWVUS were held 24 Oct. through 16 Nov. The general topics for discussion were:

- The role of the federal government in public education, historical perspectives;
- Common Core Standards and Assessments;
- Funding and equity issues;
- Early childhood education; and
- Legislation and funding for the education of children who are disadvantaged.

Our consensus results are being compiled and written into a report to LWVUS by a committee led by Carol Louchheim. For questions or comments contact her as follows: Carol Louchheim, clouchheim@yahoo.com.

NATIONAL STUDY ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

In addition to the Education Study, we also have a second LWVUS study in early 2012. We need volunteers for this one, the *privatization study* (Dec.-March) Contact: Debby Maio at dmmaio@mac.com

Privatization Study: Identify the "parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good."

PROGRAM PLANNING (at our Dec. 14th Holiday Party) includes input to LWVUS for the National Convention 2012

Our Dec. 14th Holiday Party (potluck dinner) and Program Planning Meeting [See Page 1 at bottom.] includes our discussing what we may want to say to the LWVUS about the national League's program planning and priorities for 2012-2014.

The LWV National Convention will address such items. The latest Leaders' Update from Elisabeth McNamara, LWVUS President, asks for early input on local Leagues' concerns related to program planning. She says that early input enables the national board to minimize unplanned actions and unnecessary debate at the biennial national convention and facilitates proper deliberation by the LWVUS Board in advance of the convention. *[Editor's interpretation]*

The LWVUS National Convention this coming year is **June 8-12, 2012 in Washington DC**. Website: www.LWV.org (national LWVUS)

ADVOCACY BY LWVUS

League President Testifies Before House Judiciary Committee Forum on Voting Laws Changes

On Monday, November 14, LWVUS President MacNamara was on the Hill to present testimony on the effect of recent voting legislation passed by a number of states in 2011. If you missed the live airing, you may find it on the LWVUS website www.lwv.org. (Her statement began at about 30 minutes into the program.) Among the numerous media reports were those from the [Huffington Post](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and [Governing Magazine](#).

EDUCATION FUND (LWVUS) (i.e., Education Study; Elections; Civic Engagement)

Elections: With New ID Laws in Place, What's Next?

This week [circa 10th Nov.] 11 state Leagues participated in a conference call to discuss next steps in relation to their new voter photo ID laws. How do we educate the public, without scaring them away? How do we monitor the implementation and impact? These were just two of the many questions discussed. The LWVWI talked about its polling place observation program, the LWVSC shared its voter education efforts and the LWVMN shared its new mini-documentary for educating the public on the barriers of voter photo ID. You can view the video [here](#). Partial funding for the video was provided by the LWVEF Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project (PAVP).

Opportunity to Participate in Community Civic-Health Index Research and Advocacy

The League has been invited once again to participate in the National Conference on Citizenship's (NCOC) Civic-Health Index Initiative, an effort to measure and understand how our communities and democracy are functioning. Recent state-level partnerships, some of which have included Leagues, have produced [comprehensive reports](#), infographics and initiatives that create a deeper understanding of civic health, generate dialogue and catalyze public policy action. [Please view NCOC's partnership page here](#) and consider how your League might get involved in this high-impact, high-visibility opportunity to galvanize civic engagement. Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. [Here](#) [on the LWVUS website] is the guide to assist you in your January/February meetings on Program Planning. The deadline for submitting program planning response forms is March 1, 2012.

Education Study Consensus Deadline!

[Ed. Note: This means that we have to file the report on our "consensus" or "unit" meetings by Nov. 30 !!!]

Wednesday, November 30, is the Consensus deadline for the study, "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." To report the response for your League, go to the Education Study page on the LWVUS website which is located [here](#) in the Members Section under Projects and Programs. The response form is located in several places on the page. This is an online form, so just follow the instructions once you've clicked on the form. Specific questions may be directed to Peggy Hill (hillp@uhcl.edu) or Joanne Leavitt (ac997@lafn.org).

ALSO AN ITEM FROM LWVUS ON LOCAL LEAGUE PROGRAM PLANNING

Program Planning Guide Is Here!

Every two years state and local Leagues and ILO's [the inter-league organizations like the Bay Area League] participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. [Here](#) is the guide to assist you in your January/February meetings on Program Planning. The deadline for submitting program planning response forms is March 1, 2012. *[Ed. Note: See Pages 1 and 6 on our planning meeting, which is the Holiday Party on the evening of Dec. 14 at Kathleen and Dave Weisenberg's.]*

SPECIAL NOTICE

PALO ALTO LEAGUE LUNCHEON SPEAKER ON JOURNALISM (AND DEMOCRACY) IN AN ERA OF NEWSPAPER CUTBACKS:

"Democracy and Journalism: Can They Be Salvaged?"

The Palo Alto League's Winter Luncheon at the Garden Court Hotel on Saturday, **December 10** from **11:30 am to 1:30 pm**. The speaker will be **Bill Johnson, Publisher of the Palo Alto Weekly**. Also, the **High School Essay Contest** winners will be awarded their monetary prizes.

**Place: Garden Court Hotel
520 Cowper Street, Palo Alto
Free Valet Parking**

Cost: \$30 per person

Please RSVP by December 6 by calling 327-9148. Send your check, made out to LWVPA, to 953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113 Palo Alto, CA 94303 or pay at the door.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER		
30 Wed	7:00pm	LWVSSMC TIMELY TOPIC MEETING in the Sunset Room at the Veterans Memorial Community Center, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City: <i>School reform in the U.S.: Is there hope?</i> - Speaker: Professor Deborah Stipek, School of Education, Stanford University. <i>(See Page 1.)</i>
DECEMBER		
5 Mon	7:00pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358
10 Sat	11:30am	PALO ALTO LWV ANNUAL WINTER LUNCHEON at the Garden Court Hotel, 520 Cowper, PA. Topic: "Democracy and Journalism: Can they be salvaged?" by speaker Bill Johnson, Publisher of the Palo Alto Weekly . RSVP by Dec. 6 to the Palo Alto League at 327-9148. Cost: \$30. <i>(See Page 4.)</i>
14 Wed	6:30pm	LWVSSMC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING a potluck dinner at Kathleen Weisenberg's, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. <i>[See Pages 1 and 5. This is our program planning and priority setting for our League (South San Mateo County), County, State and National for 2012-13]</i>
JANUARY		
9 Mon	7:00pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358.
19 Thurs	2:30pm	LWVSSMC BOOK GROUP Contact: Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or jorttung@comcast.net <i>(See Page 3.)</i>
26*** Thurs	7:30pm	LWVSSMC TIMELY TOPIC MEETING on the Grand Boulevard Plan*** as it may apply in Menlo Park (and as it fits with SB375). Contact: Patty Boyle, 854-4046 or p.boyle@comcast.net .
FEBRUARY		
4 Sat	9am-2pm	BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY on " Housing and the Bay Area's Future " at First Unitarian Church in downtown Oakland, 685 14th Street, adjacent to Preservation Park. <i>(See Page 4.)</i>
6 Mon	7:00pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358.
16 Thurs	2:30pm	LWVSSMC BOOK GROUP Contact: Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or jorttung@comcast.net .
25 Sat	9:30am?	SAN MATEO COUNTY LEAGUE DAY Save the date! More to come in January 2012 VOTER .

*** Note: The "Grand Boulevard" meeting may be January 19th, one week earlier than given here. More on this in the January **VOTER**.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW:

Dues, \$75: _____ (This is not tax-deductible)

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