



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

July-Aug. 2011

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LEAGUE WEBSITES

LWVSSMC.org (our League)
LWVBayArea.org
LWVC.org (State)
LWV.org (National)

RENEWAL TIME !!!

Use the form mailed to you (via US Postal Service) in June, or the form on Page 4 here, to renew your membership.

PLANS FOR SEPT.-OCT. 2011

League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County (LWVSSMC)

LWVUS Education Study - "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" - Participants Needed!

Our League will be conducting a study on the "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." Studies are part of our League's "grassroots" process to develop positions which the League then uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these programs. The scope of this study, as adopted by the LWVUS Board, states:

"The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-kindergarten through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope."

Local meetings will be held to review the materials, discuss the issue, and come to a consensus. **Be a part of this important study!** After the local consensus meetings are finished and the committee prepares the consensus report, it is brought to the local board for approval before it is submitted to the national study committee. The consensus report will be due by the end of November.

Please join us in this effort. If you wish to participate, please email Debby Maio at dmmaio@mac.com.

Our Fall Kickoff Meeting: Saturday morning, Sept. 10, 9am-noon. Save the Date!



Our intrepid ambassadors to Menlo Park's street fair -- pouring beer and registering voters, 16 July. Left to Right: Shirley DesMarais, Luise Maier, and Ken Broome.

FROM THE BOARD*

Well, a lot has changed in our League since I was first president in 1993-1995. There are some "new" faces (at least for me) in leadership roles and many of the same people holding our League together. I am proud to say we have a member, Kathy Armstrong, serving on the State board and another member, Wanda Ginner, serving on the LWVC Initiative and Referendum update study committee. I am disappointed to note that there are about 100 fewer members now than when I left office 16 years ago. Those of you who were at our Annual Meeting in May heard me proclaim "membership" as the main focus for my next 2 years as president. As Kathleen Weisenberg used to say (and I paraphrase here) "The League is the best organization that people have never heard of." Most people have some general connection of the League with voter registration and a few know of our voter education efforts and the Smart Voter website. But many have never heard of the League. In this era of extreme partisanship and uncivil discourse and inaccuracies and even lies reported and repeated, I believe there are many conversational opportunities to mention the League and our non-partisan and fact based approach to issues. I believe there are opportunities to give people background and information about the League. Even a small amount of info can lead someone to our website or Smartvoter.org.

We are fortunate to have a motivated and committed new Membership chair, Janet Wells, who will do a fine job introducing people to the League. She just needs us to point a few prospective members her way. At the Annual Meeting I stated my goal of receiving an award for membership recruitment and retention at the next State convention in 2013. A 5% gain in membership is award-worthy since that means that not only have you replaced your dropped, relocated, deceased, etc. members, but you have added members as well! The good news is at 120 or so members now, we only need to get to 126 to increase our membership by 5%!

I would appreciate it if all of you, even the inactive members who have always supported the League with their dues, would make a personal commitment to talk to at least two people a year about the League and what we do. With all of your help, I look forward to reporting to you in two years of our award ceremony at LWVC convention.

Lisa S. Conrad, President

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

IF YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR VOTER VIA U.S. MAIL, PLEASE TELL US SO, BY AN EMAIL TO US AT info@lwvssmc.org (AND GIVE US THE MAILING ADDRESS TO USE)

BOARD NOTES

At the July 11 meeting, the Board:

Agreed to co-sponsor with LWV Palo Alto a talk by Stanford Professor Linda Darling-Hammond related to the Federal Role in Public Education study;

Accepted revised Board procedures, Action policy and Co-sponsorship policy;

Debated a new expense reimbursement policy, to be decided at the next meeting;

Heard proposed revised bylaws to be decided at the next meeting; and

Set July 21 for board retreat and September 10 for fall kickoff meeting.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, Aug. 29, at 7pm at Lucile Spurlock's.

Lucile Spurlock, Board Secretary

LWVSSMC OFFICERS, 2011-12 (elected at the May 25 Annual Meeting [**bold**], continuing, or filled by Board appointment at the June 6 meeting of the Board)

President	Lisa Conrad
VP Administration	Shirley DesMarais
VP Program	Ellen Hope
Treasurer	Jack Morris
Director: Membership	Janet Wells
Director: Voter Service & Speakers Bureau	Carole Grace

Secretary	Lucile Spurlock
Director: Housing & Local Action	Patty Boyle

Director: Voter Editor	Evan Hughes
Director (at large)	Patti Fry

Nominating Committee	Judy Orttung (Chair),
	Lucile Spurlock, Janet Wells

Chair, Board of Trustees of the Education Fund	Ellen Kitamura
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Emergency Action Committee: Lisa Conrad, Ellen Hope, Shirley DesMarais, Jack Morris, Patty Boyle.

Off-Board Directors:

Maria Starr, International Affairs
Kathleen Weisenberg, Ed Fund Representative

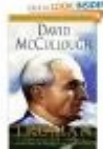
[Note: We need Candidate Forums Director, PR Director, and an Observer Chair.]

Support Services: Linda Craig (Bay Area Liaison); Sharon Sherden (Dues Secretary); Suzanne Fouche (Voter Proofreader); Joanne Bruggemann (Voter Registration and **VOTER** Mailing); Anne DeCarli (State and National Action); Onnolee Trapp (Transportation); Debby Maio, Webmaster and Assistant to the President

Ed Fund Trustees: Jack Morris and Carole Grace, with Lisa Conrad (*ex officio*).

BOOK GROUP

Our LWV Book Group selection for September is **Truman** by David McCullough. We will meet on Thursday, September 15th at 7:30 pm at Mary Kneip's. Contact Judy Orttung. **Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or jorttung@comcast.net**



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.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these two new members:
Susan Emerick (Redwood City)
Chris Cobey (Atherton)

BAY AREA LEAGUE

PLANS FOR 2011-2012 YEAR

On Saturday May 21 the Bay Area League held its Council Meeting (held every two years, with the LWV Bay Area Convention held in the alternate years). Linda Craig is our liaison with the Bay Area League and a member of the LWV Bay Area Board. The major meeting this year will be Bay Area League Day on Feb. 4, 2012, 9am-2pm. The theme for the day will be Housing, meeting region-wide goals for housing, jobs, transportation and environmental quality.

STATE: LWVC

Redistricting: Comment On The Maps

For the first time, public comments are an integral part of the process to draw the political boundaries in the state. Let the commission know what you think of the maps. For more information about the process, visit

<http://cavotes.org>.

Public comments have poured in since the California Citizens Redistricting Commission released its first draft maps for the state Assembly, state Senate, Congress, and the Board of Equalization in June. In order to produce the best maps possible, the commissioners have decided not to issue a second set of draft maps but to continue working with their line-drawing consultants and carefully consider all input as they prepare to release final maps on July 28. The commission will post visualizations of proposed districts and guide the public to organizations and news outlets that will display greater detail.

State League Update Study: Initiative and Referendum

In accordance with the approval of delegates at the LWVC statewide Convention in Ventura in May 2011, LWVC will undertake an update study of the Initiative and Referendum Process in California.

Committees will be set up in local Leagues. At the State level, LWVC will set up a committee to develop the scope of the study, including "consensus questions" that will guide discussions at local Leagues by giving a focus for local discussion groups to determine whether or not they reach consensus on the questions. The statewide committee will prepare resource and educational materials on the initiative and referendum process, tabulate results from the responses submitted by participating Leagues, and, based on those responses, recommend position language to the LWVC Board.

The statewide committee will be meeting in August and September. Contacts with local Leagues should be underway in October and November. If you or someone you know is interested in knowing more about this study, contact Evan Hughes to let our League know of your interest. For more details on the statewide committee, committee schedule, committee membership, and the expected content, scope and schedule for the study itself, contact Helen Hutchison of the LWVC Board at

hhutchison@lwvc.org.

(Helen Hutchison is Vice President for Advocacy for LWVC.)

Evan Hughes, VOTER Editor, LWVSSMC (329-8698 or evanhughesphd@aol.com)

Women Voting in California: 100th Anniversary 1911-2011

In California, this year is the 100th anniversary of the October 1911 vote, under the new "Recall, Initiative & Referendum" reforms of the Progressive Era, that gave women the right to vote in California. Our sister League to the north, LWV North/Central San Mateo County, is planning a fundraising event on the anniversary on October 14 (Page 4). [Ed.]

NATIONAL: LWUS

We need a volunteer to organize our discussion groups for the **national education study (Page 1)** Aug.-Nov., as described on Page 1, and another volunteer for the **privatization study** later, Oct.-Feb. 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."

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

25 Thurs	Time to be determined.	LWVSSMC COMMITTEE ON "CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOCAL ISSUES: LAND USE, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AB32 AND SB375, ETC." Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The time of day for the meeting will be set based on those who want to attend. Contact: Patty Boyle or Evan Hughes (evanhughesphd@aol.com or 650-796-6301).
29 Mon	7pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358

SEPTEMBER

5 Mon		LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING (No meeting: Labor Day Holiday. Meeting is Aug. 29, per above.)
10 Sat	9am	LWVSSMC "Fall Kickoff Meeting" 9am, continental breakfast; 9:45am, announcements and plans for the year; 10:15-12:00, speaker and Q&A. Lida Urbanek's, 75 Tuscaloosa, Atherton.
17 Thurs	7:30pm	LWVSSMC BOOK GROUP September book is <i>Truman</i> by David McCullough. This month at Mary Kneip's. Contact Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or jorttung@comcast.net

OCTOBER

3 Mon	7pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358
14 Fri	11:30am	LWV North/Central San Mateo County Luncheon for the 100th Anniversary of Women Voting in California: Poplar Creek Grill, 1700 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo (a fundraising event)

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 Statement of Ownership: THE VOTER is published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9, Menlo Park CA 94025. It is sent to members and supporters of the LWVSSMC. This publication may be reproduced or reprinted in part or in whole with proper attribution. President – Lisa Conrad 327-3288 Editor – Evan Hughes (650) 329-8698



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