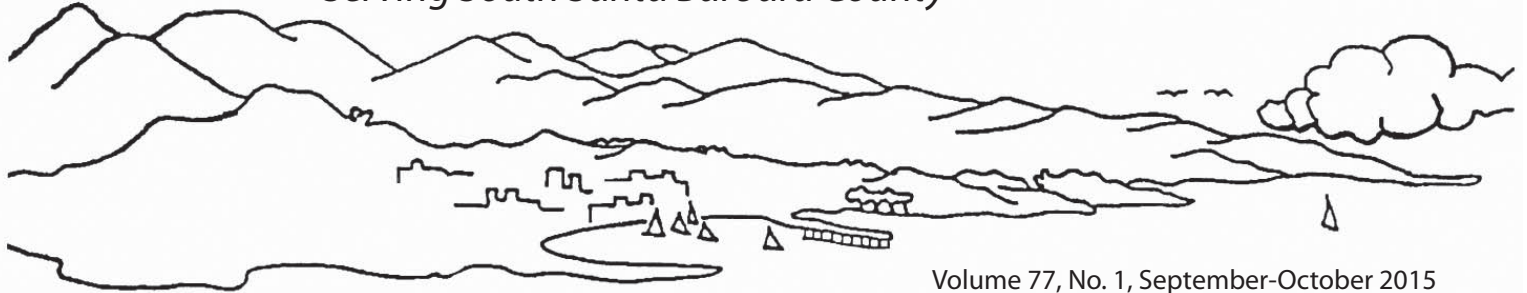




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Volume 77, No. 1, September-October 2015

Hot Topics

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Susan Shank (2017)

Nominating Committee
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Wednesday, September 16:

September Community Forum

Getting There - and Back! How Do We Get Around or Not in the City and County of Santa Barbara

With traffic only getting worse and maintenance backlogs growing, what are the City of Santa Barbara and the County doing to meet the challenges? Can we have safe and beautiful streets for ALL users-walkers, drivers, riders of bikes, buses and rail? Santa Barbara City and County transportation experts are coming to our Forum to share the why and how of what engaged citizens, City and County leaders and Public Works staff are doing about transportation issues – our recent past, our current progress and what is ahead.

Our transportation planners and traffic engineer speakers include Mike Becker of the regional Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, and Santa Barbara City's Derrick Bailey, Jessica Grant, and Peter Brown. The moderator will be Susan Horne, Health Educator, member of the Santa Barbara City Transportation and Circulation Committee, and of COAST, the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation.

Wednesday, October 21:

October Community Forum

Will Desalination Solve Our Water Problems?

The City of Santa Barbara is reactivating its desalination plant to help cope with the continuing severe drought and potential long range shortages of water. It is a difficult and expensive choice to make, but the Council feels that it is the only way to prepare for community water needs during climate change conditions. Construction will begin in November, and the plant is expected to begin producing water in September of 2016.

The City built its reverse osmosis seawater plant in response to a prolonged drought from 1986-1991. In 1991, when the rains came, the plant

was put on standby mode. To help bring Santa Barbara's desalination plant up to date the City has hired IDE Technologies, a firm with extensive experience, having built over 400 desalination plants in 40 countries.

Our speakers will include the staff of the Santa Barbara City Water Department, and a representative of the firm that will build the new plant. Additionally we will discuss a long-term study that the City has hired the National Water Research Institute to conduct focused on ways to expand the plant's production of recycled and potable water.

Community Forums are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street, from noon to 2 pm. They are always free and open to the public. You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and your friends. Parking behind the Center is free during the forums.

Message from Co-President Amanda Pelch

It is an honor and privilege to be your Co-President. Thank you for putting your faith in Lindsey and me to steer our League. We are starting this year off with a bang. As I write this the League office is closed and being demolished for remodel. It will be just lovely. Our goal is to hold the September Board Meeting in our new office. We then plan on a Grand Opening Party. Details will be forthcoming.

Voter Service under the direction of Susan Shank has established three candidate Forums – one in each district. The dates are: Sep. 28, Sep. 30, and Oct. 1. We will have ads in the Independent, Casa and other local publications. Keep your eyes open for them. Thank you Jane Benefield for creating the ads.



Co-Presidents Amanda Pelch and Lindsey Baker

Medicare's 50th Birthday was celebrated on July 30. The League's own Carole Marks planned and chaired this wonderful celebration that was complete with a Birthday Cake! We partnered with the local Health Care for All. Joyce Ellen Lippman, Executive Director of Area Agency on Aging, was the



keynote speaker covering the history and impact of Medicare for our population. As an aging Boomer I am very happy to be a Medicare recipient as it has made my life better.

There are many changes going on in our League. We are grateful for those who have stepped forward to fill some big shoes and say thank you to all for your many years of service. As you will note we have contracted with Danielle Kent to be the editor of our informative Channel Voter. We continue this year with four editions: September/October, November/January, February/March and April/May/June.

We look forward to the Transportation Forum on Sept. 16, to be chaired by Susan Horne and to the Oct. 21 Forum that will be focused on desalination and the restarting of the City plant. With Candidate Forums and Community Education Forums, finalizing and opening our new office plus the many day-to-day dealings we have, the Fall is off to a blazing start!

Message from Co-President Lindsey Baker

As the newly elected Co-President of Program and Action it is with great pleasure that I am beginning the 2015-2016 year of the League of Women Voters. It is also with pleasure that I will have the support of our Vice-President Connie Hannah. She continues to bring to our League her vast experience with the League, her institutional knowledge, and her never-ending advocacy and energy.

I was drawn to the League by the outstanding forums presented by the League. Thanks to the combined efforts of our members at the Program/Calendar Planning Meeting we have timely, interesting, and educational forum topics for the coming year. Our first forum on Sept. 16 will be titled "Getting There - and Back! How Do We Get Around or Not in the City and County of Santa Barbara" and will cover the broad scope of timeless issues regarding trains, bicycles, cars, and pedestrians.

Off-board Chairpersons and leaders of committees involving Social Policy, Education, Gun Violence, Water, Sustainable Communities, Hazardous Materials, Energy, International Relations, Government, and Community Elections have been generously giving me their time and sharing their knowledge and ideas to broaden my knowledge of our League past and present. It is my hope to help and encourage all of your committee work.

As a new member of the League, I joined the Observer Corps and found it to be an excellent means of civic engagement and education.

One of my goals with our League is to sustain, enhance, and support our Social Policies Committees with new emphasis in our second quarter of this League year.

We will be reengaging our Discussion Units in October as a combined Unit/Constitutional Amendment workshop in cooperation with and at the request of the LWVUS. It is a study of the process of amending the constitution.

I look forward to working with all of our League members in the future.

Subscribe to the LWV YouTube Channel!

View our Forum Program Videos on Clean Energy, Immigration, Violence Against Women and many more. Watch the videos and subscribe to our channel at:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCex75_yal_YCcojaLQN6Kfw/feed

September Discussion Units

There will be no September Discussion Units

October Discussion Units

There will be only a single discussion unit in October. It will take place Saturday, Oct. 24 at Marmalade Café in La Cumbre Plaza from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, the cost will be \$30.00. LWVUS has asked us to take consensus on an effort to support a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United Decision. Reservations are required, contact CoPresAction@lwvsantabarbara.org or call 965-2422 for reservations and more information.



Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum (left) and Chris Carson (right) from LWVUS speaking about Money in Politics at May Community Forum



State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson discusses her legislation on women's issues at LWVSB annual meeting

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email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org; Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org

Report from the Sustainable Communities Committee

The Sustainable Communities Committee has been meeting monthly for 17 years, ever since the whole country discovered that Sustainability was going to be the name of the game. The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has an excellent position paper that the Sustainable Communities Committee has found helpful, about using League positions to comment on various issues. An excerpt from that paper is: "Support for sustainability is often implicit, and in some cases explicit: LWVC has specific positions that support nine of ten identified elements of sustainability. On the basis of current positions Leagues can work for sustainable communities."

Because of our League's commitment to do something about climate change, a great deal of the Committee's work this year has dealt with energy issues. Most recently, of course, we have been following the Refugio Oil Spill, and its fallout. When the oil companies wanted to truck their oil out of the local area, we supported the County's decision to require full environmental review. More recently, when Goleta was asked by Venoco to allow two weeks of trucking in order to empty their existing offshore lines, we supported that action in order to preserve the pipeline involved. We have commented repeatedly on Venoco's plans to drill new wells from Platform Holly and to revive their Carpinteria drilling project.

Earlier this year, we followed the changes being made in the way that the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) functions, putting more controls on fracking and other new oil production

techniques. The links between our current water shortages and the amount of water that the oil industry uses have also required attention.

Committee members have attended and cooperated with UCSB's Central Coast Sustainability Summit every year and have met with other groups that are working on similar issues. Through the Central Coast Sustainability Summit, we became aware of the Community Choice Aggregation law which allows local governments to take much more control over the purchase of alternative energy sources. A local effort, called Community Choice Energy, is being undertaken to determine if it is feasible for the South Coast to buy its own power and have it delivered by Southern California Edison. Santa Barbara County and the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta have given money to conduct a feasibility study, and we will be following that process closely. In April we prepared a Community Forum to introduce the program to the public.

Our other major focus this year has been the over-development occurring in Goleta. There are already 2,000 new residential units built, at a time when water is in extremely short supply. The development has also severely impacted several intersections in Goleta. The present government appears to be willing to approve any project, of any size. The Committee has made a number of statements urging them to consider the future problems that unlimited development may cause. This is particularly critical with the current drought and ongoing water problems.

Connie Hannah, Chair, Sustainable Communities Committee

Center for Lifelong Learning to Host Class on Protecting the Gaviota Coast and Naples

The peaceful and rural agricultural land of Gaviota Coast and Naples is threatened not only by oil – it is also subject to devastation by creeping urbanization. A panel will explore the ideas of groups dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing these lands from disastrous oil spills and urban development.

Panelists will include: Linda Krop, Chief Counsel of the Environmental Defense Center, Jesse Swanhuysen from the Law Office of Marc Chytilo and Reeve Woolpert, renown photographer of the Gaviota Coast. The moderator is Cathie McCammon, LWVSB's Naples Coalition Board member. This Center for Lifelong Learning class is Oct. 13, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Room 20 of the Schott Center located at Bath and Padre Streets, tuition is \$16. Sign up at the Schott Center or on-line at www.theCLL.org

No Quick Fix for the Drought

As the South County faces the fifth year of an unprecedented drought, the City of Santa Barbara is moving forward with reactivating its desalination plant. The plant was originally built in 1991 and paid for by the City and the Goleta and Montecito Water Districts. By the time it was completed, it was no longer needed. Operating parts were then sold because they had become obsolete; however, the City kept its permits in place and maintained ownership of the site.

Currently the reactivation plans for the plant are in the design phase. After the site preparation is complete, construction is expected to begin in November. The City has signed a five year operational permit with IDE, an Israeli company that operates worldwide.

The Montecito Water District is evaluating whether it should join The City of Santa Barbara, or build its own plant. The Coastal Commission and the Regional Water Board must be consulted and proper permits obtained should Montecito decide to pursue building its own plant.

These and other water-related issues are discussed at the LWVSB Water Committee monthly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 29 at noon at the newly remodeled League office.

Pat Shewczyk and Joan Kerns, Water Committee Co-Chairs

The Channel Voter is only being mailed to members without email addresses. They are posted on the website (www.lwvsantabarbara.org). You should also be getting regular LWVSB email messages with a link to the Channel Voter online, as well as the latest events and news. If you aren't getting these and would like to, please send your name and email address to league@santabarbara.org. We never share email addresses with others.

Thank you for helping us to be financially and environmentally responsible!

Vicki Allen, Communications Coordinator

Voting Rights August Anniversaries

There were two significant voting rights anniversaries in August: On Aug. 8, the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act - which tragically, we need to restore, and on Aug. 18, the 95th anniversary of the single vote in the Tennessee legislature that guaranteed that the 19th Amendment, securing women the right to vote would, at last, become law. The story of Harry Burn, a young legislator who honored a request from his mother to change his vote, is well known. With Burn's vote, decades of organizing and advocacy came to a close, and women's right to vote was won - not just for the women who had worked tirelessly for equal rights, but for all women in the United States.

A major focus of LWVUS' advocacy this year has been to restore the Voting Rights Act, which was badly undermined by a court ruling two years ago. A Call to Action has just been re-issued. If you haven't already responded to these requests, please do so now. Our Congress members are supportive, but we also need to remind them that we have their backs on this issue.

In California, LWVC sued the state last year, asking to restore voting rights to ex-convicts released under community supervision by Proposition 47. California Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced his agreement to do this on Aug. 4 (his predecessor had appealed a favorable decision last year; he withdrew the appeal). A timely victory!

Tackling Climate Change

[TAKE ACTION: Thank the EPA and President Obama for Fighting Climate Change and protecting public health!](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just released its Clean Power Plan—the first ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants. Power plants are the number one contributor of carbon pollution, and carbon pollution is the largest contributor to climate change. This long awaited regulation will save lives, improve health, spur economic growth and protect our environment.



The Clean Power Plan is the biggest and most ambitious action the U.S. has ever taken to tackle climate change. League supporters have been encouraging the administration to move forward with this rule for years, generating over 90,000 letters to the EPA and to President Obama in support of a strong rule.

Please sign our thank-you card to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and President Obama! Go to www.lwv.org to sign the card.

Finalizing this historic regulation will save our planet from the effects of climate change!

Assembly Bill Three: State Bill on a Local Issue

Assembly Bill Number Three (AB 3) by Assembly Member Williams would allow the establishment of a Community Services District to provide local governance for Isla Vista. Because this state bill affects only our local area, LWVSB has received permission from LWVC to support the bill.

Linda Phillips, State & National Action

Don't forget to renew your membership!

You can use the form on Page 7, renew online at:

www.lwvsantabarbara.org

or return the form you received in the mail

District City Council Forums Are Coming!



Susan Shank and Joanie Jones were thanked for their work as co-presidents during the Annual Meeting.

On Nov. 3, Santa Barbara will hold its first District City Council election since the late 1960s. For 45 years, from the late sixties through 2013, council candidates were elected citywide. This fall voters will elect Council members for District 1 (Eastside), District 2 (Mesa) and District 3 (lower Westside). This is a “mail-in” election; ballots will be mailed to residents in the three Districts on Monday, Oct. 5. Districts 4, 5, and 6 will vote for City Council members in 2017.

The League will sponsor candidate forums in the Districts 1,2 and 3, where elections will be held this fall. The tentative dates and locations for the forums are as follows:

District 1: Wednesday, September 30, 7-9 pm, Franklin School

District 2: Thursday October 1, 7-9 pm, Washington School

District 3: Monday September 28, 7-9 pm, Harding School

There are five candidates running in District 1, four in District 2 and three in District 3.

The forums will be recorded and aired on public access television in both English and Spanish. In the past, our candidate forums have been aired frequently on public access television. We also plan to put the forum videos on the League website.

Susan Shank, Voter Service Chair



League members registering Carpinteria High School student voters



Jean Reiche was honored for her long service as LWVSB treasurer at the Annual Meeting.

Renew Your Memberships Now

August is a busy time for a Membership Director. Letters for dues renewals went out in July to current members as well as letters to former members. Enclosed with the reminders was the **Opportunity is Knocking** brochure and the **2015 – 2016 Annual Member Survey**. If you have not returned your survey, please do. Your input will help the Board and Committees determine how much we can accomplish in the coming year!

Please pay your dues promptly if you have not already done so. Our Bylaws (Article VIII Sec.2) decree that once a member's dues are 60 days late, that person is no longer a member.

We welcome the following new members to LWVSB:

Kristen Cothorn, Alison Flewell, Tania Isreal, Barry Keenan, Amanda Mardon, Andria Martinez Cohen, Linda Mayo, J'Amiee Oxtan, Wesley Roe, Anne H. Rojas, June Sochel, Tana Sommer-Belin, Laura Wallin, Dorothy Warnock, John Warnock, Mike Weissman.

Thank you,
Bev King, Membership Development Director

In Memoriam: Vivian (Vi) Obern

Membership Form to Join League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$70 Second member in same household \$35
 Please send me more information about League \$35 Student
 I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$_____ to support the League

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Discounted dues are available for special circumstances: Beverly King, 687-1124*

I am committed--sign me up to: Register Voters Join the League of Women Voters
 Invite a friend to join the League Pledge financial support in the amount of \$_____

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____



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Co-Presidents: Amanda Pelch, Lindsey Baker

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Printed on recycled paper.

Calendar

September

- 12 **Saturday, LWVSB Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. League Office, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A
- 16 **Wednesday, Community Forum: Getting There - and Back!** How Do We Get Around Or Not In the City and County of Santa Barbara, noon to 2 pm, Louis Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina St.
- 22 **National Voter Registration Day!**
- 28 **Monday, Candidate Forum for City Council District 3**, 7-9 pm, Harding School, 1625 Robbins St.
- 30 **Wednesday, Candidate Forum for City Council District 1**, 7-9 pm, Franklin School, 1111 E Mason St.

October

- 1 **Thursday, Candidate Forum for City Council District 2**, 7-9 pm, Washington School, 290 Lighthouse Rd.
- 5 **Monday, Santa Barbara City Council election ballots for Districts 1, 2 and 3 mailed**
- 10 **Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting**, 10 a.m. League Office, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A
- 13 **Tuesday, Center for Lifelong Learning class: Protecting the Gaviota Coast and Naples**, 6 - 8 pm, Room 20, Schott Center at Bath and Padre Streets
- 21 **Wednesday, Community Forum, Will Desalination Solve Our Water Problems?** noon to 2 pm, 1232 De la Vina Street
- 24 **October Discussion Unit: Consensus on Overturning Citizens United decision**, Marmalade Café, La Cumbre Plaza, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm