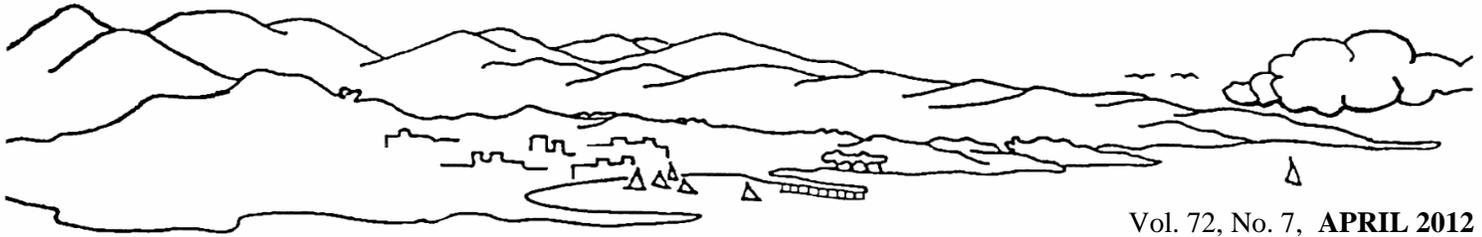




# CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

*Serving South Santa Barbara County*



Vol. 72, No. 7, APRIL 2012

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## April Community Forum: Our Elections - Who Pays?

Wednesday, April 18, 12 - 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Community Center  
1232 De La Vina St. - Free and open to the public.

How much money can be spent to get a candidate elected or to advocate for a ballot measure? And what are the limits that government can put on people who want a say in their government? Are corporations really people? These and many other questions will be explored in our April community forum on Campaign Finance at the federal, state and local levels. This subject is at the forefront of voters' minds this year as we are seeing billions of dollars spent on elections for the first time in our history.

Campaign finance is a subject members of the League have heard about over the years. The League has been at the forefront of the issue nationally for decades, fighting for the public's right to know, allowing candidates to compete equitably for public office, and allowing maximum citizen participation in the political process. This position applies to federal, state and local campaigns.

However, this election year is the first time super PACs are poised to influence elections, and the landmark US Supreme Court decision, Citizens

United v. the Federal Election Commission has rewritten the rules under the premise of the First Amendment.

In this forum we will hear about what the Citizens United case decided. Is there a way to undo the finding of Citizen United, especially that corporations are people? What is happening to campaign finance reform in Washington? And how about Sacramento? A disclosure bill is working through the legislature. What does that entail?

A few years ago, a local movement to control campaign finances fell flat. Is there any interest in getting back to putting realistic limits on contributions and expenditures? Is it legal to do so? This should be a lively discussion.

Bring your own brown bag lunch; cookies and beverages will be provided. The forum is free and open to the public. Parking is free at the center, which is located at the corner of De La Vina and Victoria Streets.

*Marty Blum, Government Chair*

## April Units: The Privatization Study Onward to Consensus

Consensus is not a vote. Rather it is a sense of the attendees after thorough discussion and consideration. We have been dealing with types of privatization and policy issues in connection with proposals to transfer state, local and federal government services, assets and functions to the private sector.

Consensus will not be directed at whether privatization is good or bad, but rather at what should be considered in making decisions in a particular situation.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## President's Message

As they say, "never a dull moment;" that is definitely the case with League. Perhaps this phrase is even more apt with the LWVSB, as we are still one of the largest and most active in California. Elsewhere in this Channel Voter you will read about the Parker Palmer event we co-sponsored with the LWV Ventura County and LWVSLO. For now let me just say, as I am pleased to report, that four new members joined LWVSB as a direct result of the Palmer event (and, of course, the gentle prodding of our own Joanie Jones). These new members include two men and two women. And speaking of male members, planning for the 2012 Garden Party honoring the men of the League is coming along nicely. Please read more below on this exciting event that celebrates the fact that as men and women and engaged citizens, "we are all in this together."



There are three more events coming up that both celebrate the League's connections to the community and help raise the visibility of our work. In each case, we are honored and excited to make the most of the opportunity to show that the LWV is *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. These include:

Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network will honor the LWVSB at its 2012 Wildlife Sanctuary Awards luncheon on **Sunday, April 15**. Throughout its 73 year history the Santa Barbara League has worked to protect the environment of the South Coast. Early on, our members understood that preventing the degradation of the ocean and land areas would best support the welfare of humans and wildlife. For more information, please contact Sue Burrows.

The LWVSB will have a table at Santa Barbara's annual Earth Day Festival taking place on **April 21 and 22**. Stop by and say "hi" or better yet, volunteer to take a shift at the table. For more information, contact Amanda Pelch.

Along with the Carpinteria Woman's Club, Girls Inc of Carpinteria, and the Santa Barbara County Commission for Women, the LWVSB is co-sponsoring a screening of the new documentary film, "Miss Representation" on **Friday, May 4** at the Plaza Theater in Carpinteria. This provocative film about the ongoing distorted depictions of women in the mass media ends with a call to action. Women's voices will be heard only

if we speak. Women's vital roles will be understood only if we take the lead. Of course, the League is just the place to find one's voice (male or female) *and* gain valuable leadership experience. The presentation will conclude with a panel discussion. Tickets are \$10 plus \$1.50 service fee and available online via the Plaza Theater website.

The Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee has invited the LWVSB to participate on a Panel called "Building Community: Networking for Action" on **Wednesday, May 23**, 6:30 p.m. at Faulkner Gallery. Per the Committee, the goal is to bring groups that are advocating for programs/projects in the community (local, state, national issues) together, to discuss their issues with the public and members of the other groups.

As Co-President for Program & Action, I will be representing the LWVSB on the panel. Others on the panel include representatives from AAUW, Coalition Against Gun Violence, Fund for Santa Barbara, Pacific Pride, Just Communities and National Association of Women Business Owners.

Last month we made our own call to action, asking members to "take the torch" of League service so others, who have been working long and hard, can take a well deserved rest. We have another key League service in need of new "torchbearers," Adopt-a-Poll. For many years, the intrepid duo of Jan and Don O'Dowd led our Adopt-a-Poll efforts. Claire Van Blaricum took over and is now ready to step down. In this election year, we hope to continue this tradition of Election Day service to the Santa Barbara community but we can't do it without new Adopt-a-Poll leadership (one or two individuals to serve as Precinct Captain) and more poll workers. If you are interested to help or would like to learn more, please contact Susan Shank of the Nominating Committee.

To all our new members welcome aboard! To all those who have enjoyed League membership for a while but have not yet found your special place, be encouraged. There are always new ways (and old ways) to create "never a dull moment" in League.

*Beth Pitton-August, Co-President, Program & Action*

### April Units *(Continued from page 1)*

Please remember to bring your March Channel Voter to the unit meeting so you will have a copy of all six questions and their many parts. (Don't forget the continued section on page 6). For more in-depth information go to <http://www.lwvsantabarbara.org>. We look forward to seeing you so we can add our consensus to that of other local Leagues. LWVUS will use the combined local responses to determine whether members agree on a national position that we will be able to use for advocacy.

*Sheila Kamhi, Co-Chair, Privatization Study*

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*Email: [info@lwvsantabarbara.org](mailto:info@lwvsantabarbara.org) • Web: <http://lwvsantabarbara.org>*

### League To Present Candidates Forum in April

The League will sponsor a candidates forum this month.

**On April 16**, there will be a forum for First District County Supervisor candidates at the Louise Lowry Davis Center from 7 to 8 p.m. The candidates are incumbent Salud Carbajal and Carol Loeff.

Early information on the upcoming June 5 election: the election is an open primary. The top two candidates will move on to the general election—even if there is a large margin between the top two.

Absentee ballots will be mailed out on or about May 7.

There will be only two state measures on the ballot. These are:

**Proposition 28:** an Initiative Constitutional Amendment, which reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years. It allows a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of both. Applies only to legislators first elected after the measure is passed. Provides that legislators elected before the measure is passed continue to be subject to existing term limits.

**Proposition 29:** an Initiative Statute which imposes an additional five cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$1.00 per pack), and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products to fund cancer research and other specified purposes.

All other state measures have been deferred until the November election. The State League will provide Pros and Cons sometime this month, and Easy Voter Guides will be available as well.

Larry Nimmer will video the candidates forum and it will be shown on Santa Barbara Channels. Links will be available on our website as well. Contact Sandy Stites or Janice Rorich.

Other Voter Service activities in progress or planned include participation in the Santa Barbara City College Civics Day and offering registration training to City College students, as well as providing training to other interested groups. We need volunteers to help with forums, especially for the November election. Contact Sandy Stites or Janice Rorich.

*Sandy Stites, Voter Service Director*

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### Social Policy Interest Group (SPIG) News

The LWVSB Social Policy Interest Group (SPIG) was established in 2010. Members of SPIG meet and give short reports on topics of interest for Social Policy for the LWVSB. These include, but are not limited to, Mental Health, Homelessness, Health Care, issues relating to local youth, The Coalition Against Gun Violence, Children's Health and Women's Issues. The goal is to educate one another and keep alert for opportunities to educate the membership and the public about any of these issues.

Not all of the following events have been co-sponsored by the League—but we encourage individuals to learn more about the organizations that participate in our SPIG!

#### **Coalition Against Gun Violence**

**Sunday, April 15**, 11:30am at the Santa Barbara Club, 1105 Chapala St. Join the Coalition Against Gun Violence 17th Annual Luncheon. Enlightening our community about the causes, risks, and consequences of gun violence. Nick and Amanda Wilcox, Legislation & Policy Chairs, California Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and Advocates of "Laura's Law." "After losing our daughter Laura in a rampage shooting, we committed ourselves to working to reduce violence in our society." Reservations and information: (805) 564-6803 • Email: cagvsb@gmail.com • Website: sbcoalition.org facebook.com/sbcagv • twitter: @sbcoalition • Blog: sbcoalition.blogspot.com.

#### **Health Care for All**

2012 Conference on "California & National Health Care..."

Where Are We Now?" **Saturday, May 12**, 9:00 am.-12:30 pm. Harbeson Hall, Pasadena City College, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. Keynote Speakers: Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health Access California and Don McCanne, MD, Senior Health Policy Fellow for Physicians for a National Health Program (Registration Deadline May 9). Space is limited. Please phone the LWV- Pasadena office at 626-798-0965 to register.

#### **Homeless Issues**

Two documentaries about Homelessness in Santa Barbara. "Krystal Freedom" (filmed in the 1980s) and "Streets of Paradise" (filmed in 2004). Discussions will follow the movies. **Sunday, April 15** from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery, 1100 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara. Refreshments will be served. Homelessness is everyone's problem. For people who are interested in participating, it is time to build a coalition of housed and unhoused people to discuss challenges and create action plans to turn our ideas into reality! People who are homeless or who have experienced homelessness are encouraged to come and share your stories.

#### **Join the SPIG!**

You can also join our next Social Policy Interest Group meeting on **Thursday, April 19** at the League office from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch! We will be meeting at the LWVSB Office 328 E Carrillo St., Suite A Santa Barbara.

*Emily Allen, SPIG Co-Chair*

## National Action

During the last month, LWV has been front and center in standing up for the Affordable Care Act, and also for women's health care.

### **League Joins Supreme Court *Amicus* Brief on Affordable Care Act**

On March 26, the Supreme Court was expected to begin hearing oral argument on legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act. The League of Women Voters joined a broad coalition of healthcare, education and child welfare organizations in filing an *amicus* brief on the Affordable Care Act. The *amicus* brief argues that the challenge to the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid eligibility jeopardizes a broad range of federal-state programs and antidiscrimination protections that hinge on the U.S. Constitution's "Spending Clause."

### **League Urges Full Funding of Title X Federal Family Planning Program**

The LWVUS Lobby Corps (members from the DC area) will be visiting Senate offices over the next few weeks to ask Senators to fully fund the Title X federal family planning program for the \$327 million requested in President Obama's FY 2013 budget.

The League of Women Voters has a long-standing interest in programs and policies that provide access to health care for all residents of the United States. Since 1992, when League members studied the issue of health care, we have worked for comprehensive health care coverage for all Americans. The League also has a strong commitment to the concept that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Since 1970, Title X has provided family planning and reproductive health care services to millions of low-income individuals and families. The record is clear: over 5.2

million patients have received preventative health care service including immunizations, screening for cancer, and family planning services. Studies have determined that every \$1.00 spent on Title X saves \$4.02 in Medicaid costs. We believe that Title X services are critical for the health of women and their families throughout the country.

Yet in the past few years, as the numbers of people living in poverty and in need of Title X services has increased, Congress has cut funding to the Title X program. In the past two years alone, over \$23 million has been cut from the program.

The League is very concerned that the Congressional debate over funding Title X has become an ideological one, ignoring the real need for Title X services. Congressional cuts reduce the services offered by Title X centers and directly impact the health of patients and their families.

We believe that this program has proven itself over the forty years that it has been in operation and that it provides health care and family planning services for women and their families who might have no other option.

### **Stand up for Women's Rights**

On March 8, in a 51-48 vote, the U.S. Senate rejected an amendment by Senator Blunt to block contraceptive services and discriminate against women. This amendment would have limited access to contraceptive services for women based on an employer or insurance plan having religious or moral objections. League members all over the country helped defeat the Blunt amendment, but this vote was just the first battle in the fight over contraception. We need to keep the pressure up by continuing to let Senators know where we stand. You might want to thank our Senators for their vigorous opposition to the Blunt amendment.

## State Action

### **Register for Leadership Council 2012:**

#### ***Leadership for the Future***

Registration and other information is now available on the LWVC Council website for the **May 19-20** Leadership Council at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Sacramento. Each local League has only one delegate, the president or a co-president. But the Council, held in even years, always has great workshops and speakers, and is open to all members.

### **Action on June Ballot Measures**

The LWVC supports Proposition 28, the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act. This measure would reduce the total number of years an individual could serve in the legislature from 14 to 12, but allow all 12 years to be in one house of the legislature.

Legislators could focus on serving their districts rather than running for a new office. Proposition 28 won't solve all the problems in Sacramento, but it brings positive change to make the Legislature more effective and accountable.

The League has taken a neutral position on Proposition 29, the California Cancer Research Act. This measure would add a \$1 per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, enforcement and administration. While the League supports these causes, we believe that earmarking state revenue for specific expenses reduces the legislature's flexibility to set budgets that respond to current

*(Continued on page 5)*

## League Sponsors Successful Parker Palmer Event

It was a full house at the Lobero Theatre as an enthusiastic audience heard Dr. Parker Palmer talk about democracy and the need for more civil discourse. The Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo LWVs joined several other organizations and individuals in sponsoring Dr. Palmer's Feb. 22 lecture on "Healing the Heart of Democracy."

Dr. Palmer holds a PhD degree in sociology and has been referred to as one of our country's most important thinkers on education and community leadership. He was the Senior Associate of the former American Association of Higher Education and is now the founder and Senior Partner in the Center for Courage and Renewal that works with the Courage to Teach program for K-12 teaching and a parallel community leadership development program.

He has authored nine books including "Healing the Heart of Democracy," "The Courage to Teach," "A Hidden Wholeness," and "The Active Life."

In his talk he referred to De Tocqueville's Democracy in America written in the 1830s where he said that the US democracy depended on the people having a heart and

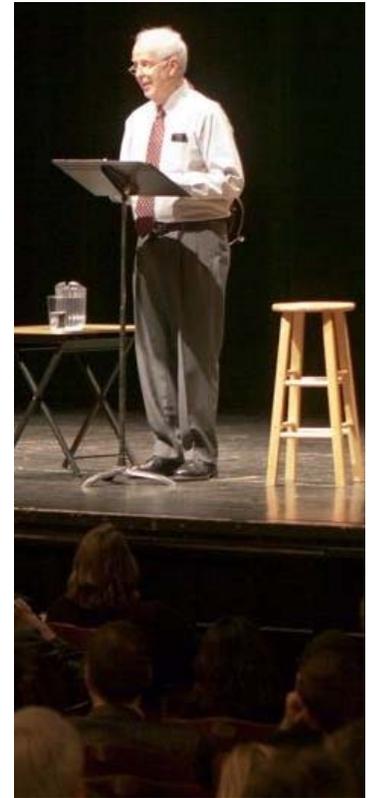
applying it to their community. He asked, in our day, can we open up ourselves to have civil discourse? He talked about the tension between the "we", the groups we associate ourselves with, and the "others." He suggested there were 20% of the left and 20% of the right who are not able to talk to each other—which leaves 60% of us to do the work.

Dr. Palmer asked us to expand ourselves to learn to see the other's view. He said it helps to tell each other the stories of how we came to feel the way we do. The story gets the other person coming to grips with the same situation that affected you. It seldom gets us anywhere to state our opinion as right and the other's as wrong.

He asked us to be in the middle ground of tension between doing only what can be accomplished and aspiring to a dream, between listening and speaking out, and between acting as an individual and acting in community.

He offered the talk as an introduction to support effective community leadership and for his books and training retreats.

*Colin Jones, LWVSB Member*



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### State Action *(Continued from page 4)*

needs. If funds are earmarked for specific expenses, we strongly prefer that this be accompanied by a sunset clause, requiring review of the expenditures on a regular basis.

#### **Positions on November Ballot Measures**

The LWVC opposes the referendum on the newly drawn state Senate maps that has qualified for the November ballot. Remember that the question on a referendum is phrased "do you want to retain the current law (in this case, the maps drawn by the redistricting commission)?" Therefore, because we oppose the referendum we want people to vote "yes" to retain the maps drawn by the commission. It's confusing—so think about it, and make sure everyone you know understands.

The LWVC also supports SAFE California, the initiative that will replace the death penalty with life without the possibility of parole. Signatures from petitions are now being counted by the Secretary of State.

#### **Voting Rights Lawsuit**

The League is one of the petitioners in a lawsuit filed March 7 against the California Secretary of State. The suit seeks to clarify that people who have been sentenced for low-level, non-violent offenses under the state's historic reform of criminal justice known as Realignment are entitled to vote. The lawsuit asks the Court of Appeal to clarify the voting rights of more than 85,000 Californians in time to allow them to register before the Oct. 22 deadline.

For information about any of these measures contact me at [action@lwvsb.org](mailto:action@lwvsb.org).

*Linda Phillips, State and National Action Director*



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## Don't Miss Our Garden Party May 6: We're All In This Together



We are looking forward to our professionally-catered annual Garden Party on Sunday, **May 6, 2 - 4 p.m.** in the lodge at Lions Park at 6197 Casitas Pass in Carpinteria.

We welcome sponsors for this gala event where the "Men of the League" will be honored. Our membership continues to grow and to involve both men and women who wish to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.

Please save the date and we will see you on May 6. For carpooling call Bonnie Jensen. For other questions and volunteers, call Joanie Jones.

### Privatization Forum



Oran Young, co-author of "Limits to Privatization: How to Avoid Too Much of a Good Thing," gave the global perspective.



Former County Counsel Shane Stark, spoke on the legal aspects of privatization.



Connie Hannah and Linda Phillips, members of privatization study committee, listened to Shane Stark.

It is our pleasure to honor *the Men of the League*  
At the Annual Garden Party of the Santa Barbara  
League of Women Voters with a contribution of:

- \$1000 or more as a Benefactor\*
- \$ 500 as a Patron\*       \$100 as a Friend\*
- \$ 250 as a Sponsor\*       \$ 50 as a Donor\*\*
- \*includes 2 tickets      \*\*includes 1 ticket

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 per person. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.  
I/We cannot attend. Please accept my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of your guests on separate paper, make check payable to LWVSB and return to League office. All proceeds benefit the League Operating Fund and are not tax-deductible.

# Membership News

New growth is popping up all over. Happy Spring! The New Member Orientation went well. Everyone enjoyed meeting at our refurbished office, which looks quite nice. The intention is to have another New Member Orientation in late August, just as we get in the swing of our Fall activities.

Please support our Spring activities by bringing friends who have an interest in learning about issues and the political process.

As you may remember, we recently learned that some postal regulations have changed. Therefore we can no longer include the personal information for new members and the changes regarding our current members. The Board has not decided exactly how this information will be disseminated in the future. Stay tuned for the decision and more information.

*Amanda Pelch, Membership Development Director*



Amanda Pelch



New members at Orientation Meeting; Vice President Joanie Jones, far right.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM to join LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

- Here's my annual membership dues of \$60\*
- Second member in same household \$30
- Student \$30
- Please send me more information about League
- I can't join right now; here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the League.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 A E. Carrillo St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

*\*Discounted dues are available for special circumstances. —Amanda Pelch.*

# CALENDAR

## APRIL DISCUSSION UNITS:

### PRIVATIZATION STUDY CONSENSUS

- 3 Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Lolly Quackenbush.
- 4 Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m., Pat Shewczyk's house. Co-chairs: Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 9 Monday: **NEW DATE AND TIME: Valle Verde Unit** – noon-2 p.m., North Gazebo, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns.
- 11 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit- 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair: Barbara Godley, 969-9942.
- 14 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office at 328 A East Carrillo.
- 16 Monday: First Supervisorial District Candidates Forum, 6:30-8 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St.
- 18 Wednesday: Community Forum: Campaign Finance Reform, 12-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St. Brown bag lunch, free and open to the public.
- 19 Thursday: SPIG meeting, 12:15-1 p.m. League Office at 328 A East Carrillo St., Bring lunch.
- 21 Saturday: Earth Day Festival, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Alameda Park. Visit LWVSB Table .

- 22 Sunday: Earth Day Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Alameda Park. Visit LWVSB Table.
- 25 Wednesday Third Supervisorial District Candidates Forum, 6:30-8 p.m., Goleta Valley Community Center.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

### MAY DISCUSSION UNITS:

### CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS: What We Can Learn From the 2010 Census

- 1 Tuesday: Supper Unit - 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., Lolly Quackenbush.
- 2 Wednesday: Evening Unit - 7:30 p.m., Sheila Kamhi's house, 1040 Portesuello Ave., co-chairs: Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 4 Friday: Screening documentary film "Miss Representation," 7 p.m., panel following, Plaza Theater, Carpinteria, LWVSB co-sponsor.
- 6 Sunday: Garden Party, 2-4 p.m., Lions Park, 6197 Casitas Pass Road, Carpinteria; "We're All in This Together: Honoring the Men of the League."
- 9 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit – 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd. Chair: Barbara Godley.

Save The Date: Saturday, June 16, Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Unitarian Parish Hall, 1535 Santa Barbara St.

Remember to check the LWVSB web site (<http://lwvsantabarbara.org>) for the latest event information.



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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.

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