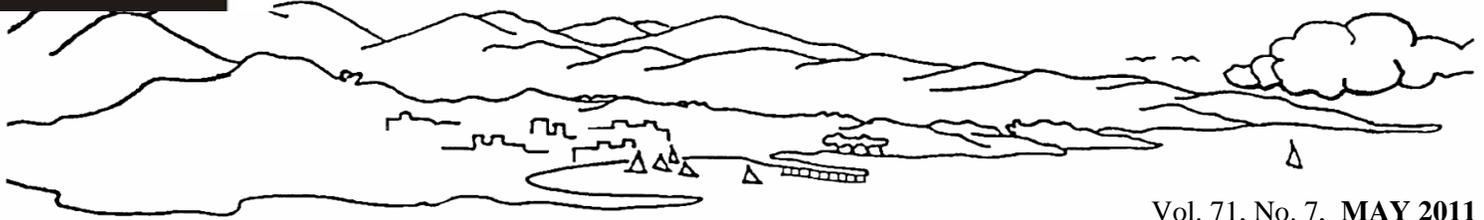




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 71, No. 7, MAY 2011

MAY COMMUNITY FORUM: COUNTY REDISTRICTING

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 12 to 2 p.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Community Center, De La Vina at Victoria St.

Free and open to the public. Refreshments to augment your brown bag lunch.

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- First Vice-President
Local Action
Connie Hannah (2011)
- Vice-President
Community Education
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- Secretary
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Martha Lannan (2011)
Jean Phillips (off board)

Every 10 years county supervisorial districts are redrawn, along with the state's Congressional, Legislative and Board of Equalization districts. How do we "draw the lines" in Santa Barbara County? Come learn about the process, the criteria that will be used locally, and how you can be involved.

Dennis Bozanich, assistant to the county executive and leader of this project, will be our speaker. Mr. Bozanich has promised to give an in-depth presentation, with emphasis on the process and on tools and resources available to the public, at our forum. You'll be well prepared to give input on the redistricting.

The County is working on a tight schedule, between the release of census data last month and their goal of adopting the redistricting ordinance in early August. Public input hearings will begin the week of our meeting; in fact, the Carpinteria hearing will have already taken place, and the Santa Barbara hearing will be later on Wednesday afternoon! While we hope some of you will attend these hearings, there will be other opportunities to submit suggestions. County Redistricting hearing dates and locations are on page 6.

Linda Phillips, President

DISCUSSION UNITS: State Redistricting *Let's Finish the Job!*

League unit meetings this month will be devoted to explaining how the state's Redistricting process works, what your role is, and ways to make your input count. In addition, details about future public meetings of the Redistricting Commission and video streaming of the meetings will be distributed. Our League Discussion unit meetings in May will be devoted to explaining how the state's redistricting process works, what your role is, and how to make your input valuable. We will also relay information on Commission public meetings and video streaming of the Commission's work.

Continued on page 3

SAVE THE DATE

LWVSB ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 4

The League's Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, June 4, in the Cantina Room of Hotel Mar Monte, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd. from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

An "Annual Meeting Kit," including information related to the meeting, will be mailed to members in early May.

Call or email Sheila Kamhi (sckamhi@cox.net) for more information.

For help with arranging transportation to the meeting, call Janice Rorick.

This is the last President's Desk column I'll be writing. After our **Annual Meeting on June 4** (note the early date!), I'll be retiring from what has sometimes seemed a nearly full-time job. The past four years has seen some remarkable accomplishments as well as difficulties for us. Many thanks to all of you who have helped make our programs possible - advocacy and voter service, action and public education, attending meetings and speaking at them. And special thanks to the nominating committee, which has presented us with an outstanding slate of nominees for next year's board.



paper just posted on the website: www.lwv.org.

Statewide, in addition to redistricting, priorities include the budget and budget process. On health care, the LWVSB board has agreed to formally endorse SB 810 (Leno), the single payer bill that has been re-introduced. The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) has already endorsed this bill, and took the unusual step of allowing local Leagues to lend not only our support for their action, but also our own local endorsement.

CONVENTION

Remember to come to state Convention in Ventura, May 13-15! Come as a member or volunteer, for all of the convention or just a day, including pre-Convention events and workshops on Thursday. It's never been so close to us before, and won't be again soon. In addition, it's the best and most exciting way to connect with our state and national Leagues, and learn about and participate in our statewide projects and issues. While only official delegates may vote, anyone may sit in on the plenary sessions as well. Tell your friends – members and non-members alike are welcome!

Linda K. Phillips, President

ANALYSIS OF PLAN SANTA BARBARA CONTINUES

Possible changes and compromises to Plan Santa Barbara are still being discussed by an ad hoc subcommittee, formed in January, of the Santa Barbara City Council. The process is continuing because the City Council could not produce the five votes needed to approve the draft Plan on March 2. The present ad hoc committee consists of Councilmembers Bendy White, Frank Hotchkiss and Dale Francisco. Meetings of the group are televised on Channel 18, and make very interesting watching.

The subcommittee has been discussing whether or not any increased density is needed downtown in order to produce more affordable housing, and if so, where it should be located. The League has supported increased density only as an incentive for the construction of smaller units, rentals and employer-subsidized housing.

It is still not clear what the final rewrite of the Plan will call for, but the issue is scheduled to return to the council on May 24 for another attempt at securing five votes in support of it.

Meanwhile, unhappy with the direction of the compromises, the City Planning Commission has appointed its own ad hoc committee to consider whether the commission would be willing to make any changes to their previous recommendations, which support increased density downtown. This new committee has three members - John Jostes, Bruce Bartlett and Sheila Lodge – who will consider any revisions.

*Connie Hannah, Chair
Sustainable Communities Committee*

The Channel Voter is published eight times a year, monthly except for January, June, July, and August, by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328A E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Email: info@lwvsantabarbara.org • Web: <http://lwvsantabarbara.org>

Unit Meetings - STATE REDISTRICTING - *Continued from page 1*

August 15, 2011, will be an historic date for California. Redistricting lines will be finalized and, except for anticipated lawsuits, will become law! Citizen interests will take precedence over the usually more narrow political interests in this year's redistricting.

An extraordinary opportunity arose when the California electorate approved State Redistricting Proposition 11 and Proposition 20, Congressional redistricting, in Nov. of 2010. The configuration of 53 Congressional, 80 State Assembly, 40 State Senate and four Board of Equalization districts are now out of the hands of politicians and in the hands of YOU via a 14-member Redistricting Commission.

However, we must be vigilant, understand the process and observe and advocate when necessary. Your help is needed as an observer to ensure the process adheres to reasonable procedures and accommodation of the public.

The LWVCEF website CAvotes.org provides background updates. Further, a webinar on May 4 at 7 p.m. or on June 14 at 10 a.m. will walk you through an overview and practical exercise as an observer. Sign up at <http://ca.lwv.org/>.

The 2011 census revealed that nearly 37,254,956 people - a 10% increase from a decade prior - are now in residence in California.

Further, the following criteria, in this order, will determine "how to draw the lines." Each district:

- Shall have roughly equal populations reflecting the concept of "one person, one vote." For example, with the state's population at 37,254,956, the State Assembly will have 80 districts with approximately 465,690 in each.
- Shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1971.
- Shall be geographically contiguous.
- Shall respect Communities of Interest — i.e. agricultural, urban, ethnic, industrial, farming, coastal, etc.
- Shall be geographically compact.
- And when possible, each senate district shall contain two assembly districts and Board of Equalization districts shall be comprised of 10 whole and adjacent senate districts.

For more information go to the following websites: CAvotes.org, wedrawthelines.ca.gov, and redistricting.ca.org. And come to our discussion units!

Jane Benefield

STATE REDISTRICTING HEARING

April 13, San Luis Obispo

Jane Benefield and I attended a Citizens Redistricting Commission Input Hearing Wednesday evening, April 13, in SLO. Twelve of the 14 commissioners were present and were welcoming and appreciative of the almost 100 people in the audience.

There was a cohesive message from the nearly 30 persons who addressed the Commission. Almost all urged the Commission to keep both SLO and Santa Barbara counties intact when they draw the district boundaries. Some of the commissioners pointed that while they didn't want to, it would be necessary to split some counties to achieve the population targets—approximately 703,000 per Congressional district. There will be approximately 466,000 and 931,000, respectively, for State Assembly and Senate districts.

The tone of the meeting was cordial and polite. Several speakers thanked the members of the Commission for taking on the job.

Videos of the hearings and much other useful information about the Commission are available at: www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov. The first draft maps for proposed districts will be released in early June.

The next Input Hearing in our area will be June 22 in Oxnard. The final district lines are due by August 15, 2011.

Susan Shank

County Redistricting Hearing dates

and locations:

Carpinteria, Monday, May 16, 6-9 p.m., City Council Chambers.

Santa Barbara, Wednesday, May 18, 3-6 p.m., Board of Supervisors Hearing Room/SB

Lompoc, Monday, May 23, 1-4 p.m., City Council Chambers.

Guadalupe, Monday, May 23, 6-9 p.m., City Council Chambers.

Santa Maria, Wednesday, May 25, 6-9 p.m. Board of Supervisors Hearing Room/SM

Goleta, Tuesday, May 31, 6-9 p.m., City Council Chambers.

Solvang, Wednesday, June 1, 6-9 p.m., City Council Chambers.

COMMUTER RAIL – VENTURA/GOLETA

Many Santa Barbara area residents are hopeful about the possibility of commuter rail between Ventura and Santa Barbara. The current widening of 101 to four lanes is not expected to permanently solve the traffic congestion problem. Measure A, the 30-year transportation tax approved by voters in 2008, provides \$25 million toward development of a train/rail solution to the commuter problem.

Members and staff of the Santa Barbara County Associations of Governments (SBCAG) have been talking at length with transportation personnel from Sacramento and from nearby counties about the possibilities. SBCAG is a member of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor Board, and this organization has been discussing commuter rail service between Santa Barbara and Ventura.

SBCAG had requested that the Amtrak Surfliner schedule be changed to leave L.A. early (5 a.m.) to fit our commuter schedule. This scheme is not considered likely to work. For one thing, such a schedule would interfere with Metrolink and Union Pacific Railroad

(UPRR) trips already operating on that single track.

Metrolink has offered some surplus equipment and would conduct a modeling analysis of Oxnard to Goleta service, where there are fewer conflicts with existing passenger rail than there would be with the proposed change in the Surfliner schedule. Expenses would include payments due to Union Pacific, which owns the track, for track usage; equipment upkeep, fuel, crew salaries (\$900,000 annually). There would also be a need for siding off the single track and for passenger auto parking in Oxnard. SBCAG is continuing to explore this offer.

At the same time, SBCAG is exploring the possibility, with the LOSSAN rail corridor board, of a single commuter train in the morning and evening, from Moorpark to Goleta. Some of the same issues that exist with the Metrolink proposal also apply to the single a.m./p.m. commuter train proposal.

This is not something that will be solved quickly, but government agencies are continuing to consider and study potential options.

Sheila Kamhi, Transportation Chair



ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The annual Garden Party of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara took place on Sunday, April 10, at the QAD software company headquarters above Summerland.

This year's honoree was Joanie Jones, and attendees also celebrated 100 years of Women's Suffrage in California.

Joanie was honored for her long history of contributions to the League and community beginning with League memberships successively in Bethlehem, Penn., Minneapolis and Edina, Minn., and Santa Barbara, where she has updated two League directories, the "Opportunity is Knocking" pamphlet and member information surveys; managed the membership data bank for several years, chaired the local League nominating committee, and oversaw the purchase of a new computer and software for the League. Joanie has also contributed to the community by volunteering in her sons' pre-school, elementary classrooms, PTAs, scout organizations and in a multiple ways over many years for the local Unitarian Universalists.

Carole Marks gave a lovely tribute to Joanie's contributions to the League and the community and presented a colorful certificate for Joanie's wall. Public officials also presented certificates to Joanie and proclamations honoring the 100 years of women's suffrage.

Trudy Jarratt, LWVC Vice-President, gave an informative and humorous talk about the 1910-1911 campaign and election that gave California women the right to vote - nine years before the Federal government passed the 19th Amendment! She included actual ballot language from both sides of the campaign, with 1910 views of women and their "place," often eliciting groans from the audience.

Local poet Sojourner Kincaid Rolle read "We The Women, Free At Last!" a poem she created for the occasion. (See text of poem following this article on page 5).

Good food, good wine, good fellowship and a beautiful coastal view were enjoyed by all.

Janice Rorick, Hospitality Director



Celebrating at the Garden Party are from left, Carole Marks, honoree Joanie Jones, President Linda Phillips and Trudy Jarratt, featured speaker and First Vice President of League of Women Voters of California.

We The Women, Free At Last!

On the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right To Vote In California

Centenary greetings to the daughters of the suffragettes.
We are all daughters of the suffragettes.

Our history goes back farther than a hundred years;
back to when this country was conceived
in the womb of justice and dedicated to the ideal of equality;
back to the colonial hearths of mothers who strengthened
and nourished the bodies of their sons and daughters to carry forth.

We are the daughters of the founding daughters: Elizabeth Ross,
Abigail Adams, Martha Washington, pilgrims and pioneers,
slaves, sharecroppers, the indentured and the unbound.

We speak the same language, in the same tongue -
an unbroken chant
clamoring to be free.

We speak as Elizabeth Stanton spoke.
We say what Susan Anthony said.
We declare that which Lucretia Mott declared.
We shout what Sojourner Truth shouted
As one, we hold this sacred vow,
We shall vote.

Carrying the Yellow Silk Banner
Maud Younger, Katherine Ballentine
Charlotta Bass and thousands strong
sallied forth across the Golden State
town to town, county to county,
house to house
proclaiming "Votes for Women"
We shall be free.

We the women,
we the wives, the mothers, the sisters,
the workers, the thinkers, the builders
We the daughters of the suffragettes.
We the body politic.
We the women.

Free at last!
Sojourner Kincaid Rolle -
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View from the Garden Party.



Poet Sojourner Kincaid Rolle presents an original poem celebrating women acquiring the right to vote.



Eric Friedman, representing First District County Supervisor Salud Carbajal, presented Joanie Jones with a certificate honoring her for her tremendous contributions to League and the community.

Jarratt gets a good laugh from some of the propaganda and "reasoning" used by those campaigning against women's right to vote.



Trudy Jarratt addresses celebrants about the 100th Anniversary of women getting the right to vote in California.



Joanie Jones, right, Garden Party honoree, with her sister Carol Hiestand.



Joanie and her husband Colin.

A REVIEW OF LEAGUE HEALTH CARE POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters' continuing mantra is "Making Democracy Work." A vital issue at all three levels of League (national, state and local) is "Making Health Reform Work."

The League's national consensus on health care resulted from a national study on the subject (1990-93), and has informed the position used by all Leagues across the country for education and advocacy. The position in brief: universal, comprehensive and affordable health care, with cost controls, should be available to all citizens in the U.S. The position calls for a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes, commonly known as the "single-payer" approach. The position also supported an employer-based system that provides universal access to health care as an important step toward a national health insurance plan. The League opposed a strictly private, market-based model of financing the health care system.

For most of the past decade, the national League (LWVUS) has monitored, evaluated, and lobbied for health care reform legislation in Washington, promoting the Public Option, but not Single Payer, last year.

Currently, LWVUS is focusing on the need to defend against efforts to repeal the new federal health care law and is urging Leagues around the country to educate their members and the public on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed into law in March 2010. State Leagues may pursue single payer initiatives in their own states – like LWVC advocating for California SB 810 – while following LWVUS' lead on federal legislation.

LWVC began its steadfast participation in the single payer movement by committing to Proposition 186, the unsuccessful 1994 California initiative also known as the "California Health Security Act." This initiative has morphed, through several legislative versions, into CA Senate Bill 810, the "California Universal Health Care Act," and was reintroduced in February 2011 by Senator Mark Leno of San Francisco-Marín. The state League is one of 23 statewide organizations in a California single payer coalition, originally spearheaded by Health Care for All – CA and the California School Employees Association. This "State Strategy Group" has decided on a campaign strategy promoting collaboration of member organizations, especially at the grassroots level, and development of an updated funding plan for SB 810.

Our Santa Barbara League joined the Prop. 186 campaign in 1994, and thereafter worked to help found Health Care for All – CA, cooperating in educational programs, lobbying efforts, campaign demonstrations, outreach to other organizations and generally building the single payer movement in health care reform.

Health Care Caucus @ LWVC Convention, May 14 in Ventura

The April Community Forum on health care pointed to the progress and the promise of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and to some interrelationships with our state single payer efforts.

Helen Hutchison, LWVC Vice President, Advocacy and Education, is urging California League members to continue working on health care reform and believes that California is on the forefront of federal health care reform.

At the state League Convention's **Health Care Caucus** (Sat., May 14. 7:15 – 8:30 a.m.), Hutchinson will be reporting on national health reform and League participation in The California Health Care Coalition of unions, non-profit groups and employers, which is addressing the health care cost crisis. She and other League leaders involved in the single payer coalition will address SB 810 (Leno) "The California Universal Health Care Act 2011," federal law waivers possibly affecting single payer programs, and on where the League should focus in order to be most effective in health reform in California.

Please seriously consider attending this Health Care Caucus.

A carpool will be available for interested members attending the Caucus and Convention for the day. Contact Carole Marks, carolemarks@cox.net.



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Each of our members is precious to our League; you are the fuel that drives our League and the work it does. Membership renewal statements will be mailed to all current members in late July, and we look forward to an even larger membership in the future.

2012 will be a stellar political year. I know each of you will want to stay tuned-in through our League. We, on the local, state and national levels, have the best non-partisan information available!

Our Fifty Year-plus Members

Congratulations if you have attained the 50 year-plus membership status. We are proud of all of you and will celebrate you at our Annual Meeting on June 4th. If you are not listed below, it is because don't have the information we need about the date you joined League (wherever it was) and would love to know your history. Have you belonged to more than one League? Are your years broken up? If so, your years

of membership may be cumulative. Newly minted 50-year members we're aware of, and those we did not know about previously, will receive a Certificate from LWVUS if we receive the essential information by early May.

The following people are the 50 Year and 50-plus Year members whose names we have on record. Congratulations, again, to Ann Baird, Dorothy Campbell, Eileen Clark, Jessica Dean, Joan Fallert, Ghita Ginberg, Jean Holmes, Elaine Iddings, Sheila Kamhi, Elinor Langer, Sheila Lodge, Lillian Lovelace, Barbara Margerum, Betty Newcomb, Lessie Nixon, Vivian Obern, Ecco Ochoa, Harriett Phillips, Virginia Robinson, Billie Kendrick Shaad, Michael Tucker, Naomi Wain, Dorothy Walker and Ann Wright.

The next membership news will be in our September Channel Voter. Please remember that we are converting our dues deadline for all members to September 1 of each year beginning this summer.

New Members:
Leslie & Ashish Bhutani
Cathy Murillo

Address Change:
Darlana Moore

Thank you for your support.

Amanda Pelch, Membership Development Director, apelch@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM to join LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

<input type="checkbox"/> Here's my annual membership dues of \$60* <input type="checkbox"/> Second member in same household \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information about League <input type="checkbox"/> 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, 452-5804.*

CALENDAR

MAY 2011

UNIT MEETINGS: STATE REDISTRICTING

- 3 Tuesday: Supper Unit meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St. Contact Lolly Quackenbush.
- 4 Wednesday: Evening Unit**, 7:30 p.m., Sheila Kamhi's home, 1040 Portesuello Ave., Co-chairs, Pat Shewczyk and Sheila Kamhi.
- 6 Friday: League Board Meeting**, 10 a.m., League Office, 328-A E. Carrillo St. (**Note change in date!**)
- 11 Wednesday: Carpinteria Unit**, 10 a.m., Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito. Chair: Barbara Godley.
- 11 Wednesday: Valle Verde Unit**, 2 p.m., North Gazebo, 900 Calle de los Amigos. Contact Jean Kerns.
- 12 Thursday: Pre-Convention workshops and other activities**, starting at 1 p.m., Ventura. For info: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/> or contact Mary Rose.

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13-15 Friday, Saturday, Sunday: League of Women Voters of California Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 East Harbor Boulevard, Ventura. For information go to <http://lwvc.wordpress.com> or contact Mary Rose, or mary.rose@maryrose.cc, or the League office.

18 Wednesday: Community Forum - County Redistricting, 12 - 2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center - De La Vina & Victoria streets. Speaker: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive, Santa Barbara County.

Looking Ahead to Next Month

JUNE

4 Saturday: Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Cantina Room, Hotel Mar Monte, 1111 East Cabrillo Boulevard. Sheila Kamhi for more information.

No Unit meetings in June.

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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