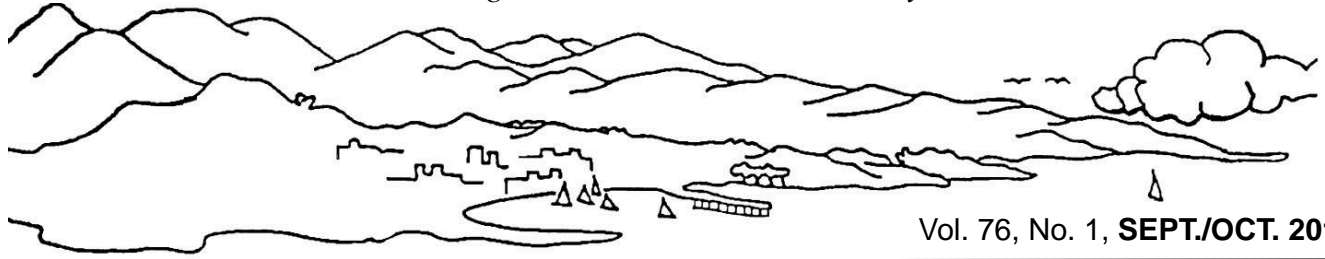




CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



Vol. 76, No. 1, SEPT./OCT. 2014

Inside the

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September Community Forum Debating The Merits Of Ballot Measure P 2014

Wednesday, September 17, Noon-2 p.m
Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street

We will start our program year with a community forum on the most appropriate topic of the season – the election. The program will focus on Measure P, officially titled The Healthy Air and Water Initiative to Ban Fracking.

As we many of us know, it bans much more than fracking; rather it bans” all advanced techniques” that can be described as “high intensity well stimulation.” The ban would be effective for future on-land oil and gas projects in the unincorporated parts of Santa Barbara County, most importantly those in the north county.

The forum will give us an opportunity to learn about this very hot topic that will be much debated between now and Nov. 4. The debate will start with a description of the current situation in the oil fields of Santa Barbara County as well as the state and county regulations that apply. **Kevin Drude**, who heads the county’s Energy and Minerals Division will provide this. Then the pro and con advocates will present their reasons why you should vote their way followed by rebuttals and questions from the floor. **Dave Davis**, the executive director of the Community Environmental Council, will speak in favor of the measure and a representative of the Vote No on P campaign will speak against it.

All League meetings are free and open to the public. You are encouraged to invite your friends. Bring your brown bag lunch; cookies and beverage will be provided. Parking behind the center, off Victoria Street, is free during the meeting.

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

(See related article on Page 4)

OFFICERS

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Administration
& Community Education
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Co-President
Program & Action
Susan Shank (2015)

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Janice Rorick (2015)
Bonnie Lassen (2015)

More on the Ballot at October Forum and Discussion Units:

October Community Forum: Let the League Help You with the Ballot Measures

Wednesday, Oct. 15, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street

Open Discussion at Units on Oct. 7, 8 and 13

The Oct. 15 Community Forum and October Units will give voters the information they need to understand what’s on the Nov. 4 election ballot. At the forum, state and local recommendations will be presented by people who have carefully studied them. Our local League’s contact person with state and national League, Linda Phillips, will moderate. The units will have an open discussion of all the ballot measures. Bring your questions, information and ballots.

For more on the forum, see Page 3. Unit dates and places are in the calendar on Page 12.

A Message from Co-President Joanie Jones

It is my pleasure to continue as Co-President of the LWVSB for **Membership, Administration and Community Education** during this 2014-2015 fiscal year. Our teams have used the summer months well. Voter Service is busy scheduling voter registration, election forums and ballot measure information sessions. In addition, Bonnie Lassen is updating our local SmartVoter.org website and connecting with Registrar of Voters Joe Holland for a smooth transfer of candidate information. Our membership team mailed out member renewal letters. And thanks to a team of Bonnie Lassen, Linda Mayo, Connie Hannah and me, you have received an updated Member Interest Survey and Opportunity Is Knocking brochure which both include some of our newest topics of study.



This month you are invited to participate in a member training or two. On Sept. 13, starting at 10 a.m. our Membership Training Advisor (MTA), Chris Carson, will hold a day of training with two sessions: 1) Facilitator Training: Build your own personal skills in learning how to become better at developing and leading really effective and efficient meetings and 2) Moderator Training: This workshop will walk you through the entire role of the moderator, from planning the event to managing the participants in the forums. This training is offered to all our members.

Your League needs your participation. Our volunteers are vital and the only way our local League operates. You fill the Discussion Unit meetings with lively and thoughtful conversation; you attend the monthly Community Forums to keep informed; you utilize and share Voter Service resources to cast an informed vote. You are the members, who make up the committees, and who will present information that will help us find consensus on the local update study on SB City Council Elections.

Included in this Channel Voter is a summary of events that occurred since our May newsletter. The Annual Meeting involved one change to our Bylaws, the election of board members, and adoption of our budget, as well as two wonderful speakers, college Presidents Lori Gaskin of Santa Barbara City College and Nancy Leffert from Antioch College. Our board and off-board volunteers have been busy planning the initial calendar for this semester. You are invited to share in planning for 2015 forums and events and to participate in all events and planning. Our Nominating Committee includes Chair, Bev King, Beverly Herbert, Cheryl Rogers, Jane Benefield and Bonnie Lassen. They are always ready to hear about short stints of service you might be looking for.

I want to send out a big thank you to Linda Mayo for her diligent work in creating our Membership database over the past three years. Because of her creative work we now have the ability to record your interests and create reports for our committee chairs. Another thank you to Donna Cairns for a year's good work as our office manager and as volunteer in creating two video records of League events, both historical and current, through scanning of photos and news articles. Each of these volunteers will move on to other important life ventures this year.

For our wonderful Board and Nominating Committee I give a hearty thank you for this past year filled with such good League work and also a grateful "welcome aboard" for another fine year together. I would also like to acknowledge our outgoing directors: Rebecca Claassen, Secretary this year; and board member Suzanne Brothen for her early work on our Membership Rosters, updating of the US and local rosters and continued work as a returning snowbird, six months at a time November through April, plus her support of the League in so many other ways. Thank you to Jean Bauman, our wonderful, organized Hospitality Director for this last year on the board and for all that forum hospitality. A special thank you to Amanda Pelch for her four years working with Membership and her continued support in that area as she moves into her new position as Secretary on the Board. It has been my pleasure to serve with all of you talented women.

The Board will continue to be ably assisted by off-Board volunteers: in Observer Corps: Cheryl Roger; Jean Holmes in Energy; Joan Kerns in Water; Emily Allen for Social Policy; Marge Gordon in Education, and Carole Marks for Health Care. And all of us are deeply appreciative of the efforts of Bonnie Lassen, our webmaster, and Vicki Allen, editor of our Email updates and the Channel Voter.

In a new and exciting election year we are in this together, and your many ways of helping are appreciated and so very necessary. I encourage you to jump in with gusto -- and also, to invite a friend! Remember to return your Interest Survey.

Continued on Page 3

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, 328 East Carrillo Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Email: league@lwvsantabarbara.org • Web: www.lwvsantabarbara.org



Message from Co-President Susan Shank

Happy New Year! July is the official start of fiscal 2014-15 for the League, but after the summer break, September is the start of our activities. It is also the first time that the Channel Voter is bi-monthly. Because 2014 is an election year, the League will be busy with forums, pros & cons talks, and taking positions on ballot measures. A total of 14 people attended the Calendar Planning meeting in June and developed plans for forums and unit meetings through this December and into 2015.

Thank you all for participating and providing “ground up” input for our events. We decided that the September and October forums should focus on **“hot button” ballot measures**.

The September forum will be on County Measure P—the Healthy Air and Water Initiative. It is often called: “the anti-fracking” initiative and is very controversial. I **hope that you will attend and bring others** to hear both sides of the issue. Another important county measure is the \$288 million bond issue for SB City College. The SB League has not yet taken a position on either of these issues, but may do so after the forum. If the Board takes a position, you will be notified in ads, by email and on the League website.

There are a total of six state measures on the ballot; however, one (the State Water Bond) may be changed before it is final. State LWV positions on these issues will be presented at the October forum. (See the articles on the September and October forums.)

As always, we need help at election time. Please contact Janice Rorick, VoterServ@lwvsantabarbara.org, or me, Co-PresAction@lwvsantabarbara.org, if you are willing to give Pros & Cons talks or help in other ways. Thank you.

Susan Shank, Co-President, Program & Action

Message from Co-President Joanie Jones

Continued from Page 2

whether or not you have a specific interest at this time. Please note on the top part of the survey that you have time to help; or you may call the office to volunteer throughout the year. And thank you for your renewal of membership and contributions.

I will see you at the Sept. 13 training and at the first Community Forum of the year on Sept. 17, noon-2 p.m., when we will hear more on the Pros and Cons of Santa Barbara County Measure P.

Sending you a very warm welcome to our new League year!

Joanie Jones, Co-President, Membership, Administration and Community Education

October Community Forum: Let the League Help You with the Ballot Measures

Wednesday, Oct. 15, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street

Hold on to your ballot, because at our Oct. 15 Forum, we will be discussing all the League recommendations on state and local ballot measures.

One of the most important measures on the Fall ballot is now Proposition 1. It was previously Prop. 43, the Water Bond, and was opposed by the League. It has been extensively amended, and LWVC is now reconsidering whether it will take a position on it. The League is supporting Prop 2, the Rainy Day Fund for State Budget Reserves. LWVC believes that this will take an important step toward fiscal discipline in state government. It requires the state to make contributions to a rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good. In bad times those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in essential programs like schools, health care, public safety, etc.

The League also supports Prop 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, which will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses, and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services and mental health and drug treatment. The state League has not made any recommendation about Propositions 45, 46 and 48 because we do not have League positions that cover them. We will also discuss the local League's position on Measure P, the Ban on Fracking ballot measure on the Santa Barbara County ballot, at that October Forum. Since some of these ballot measures may need more explanation, we hope that this program will be a real help in filling out your ballots. Our local League's contact person with state and national League, Linda Phillips, will moderate this forum, and invite people who have studied the measures to discuss them with you.

Save this forum date, and know that help is on the way! As always this meeting will be free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and a friend. Beverages and desserts will be provided.

Connie Hannah, Vice-President for Program and Advocacy

Measure P, The Healthy Air And Water Initiative

For some time now the oil industry of northern Santa Barbara County has been in decline as the easily accessible resource has already been extracted. But in recent years various techniques have been developed to give a capability to obtain oil and gas from previously impossible formations. Predictions have been made of another oil boom in the North County. Fracking, cyclic steam injection and acidization are the techniques we hear about the most.

Fracking, which uses high water pressure and chemicals to break open cracks in oil bearing shale, has been much in the news but it did not work well when tried here. It is not expected to have a future in this county. **Cyclic steam injection** is the current favorite with a number of applications made to the county for wells of this type. Large amounts of steam penetrate a diatomite layer and soften the oil so it can be extracted. Last year Santa Maria Energy's proposal for such a project in Orcutt resulted in very contentious hearings on the issue of the large amounts of greenhouse gases to be emitted when making the steam. **Acidization** uses acids of various kinds, sometimes under pressure, to dissolve the matrix and/or open fractures in order to increase the flow of oil. It is not a big concern in Santa Barbara County at this time.

Public reaction in the nation to these practices has been mixed. Some people focus on the economic benefits of the stunning increase in domestic hydrocarbons while others complain about the environmental damages that have resulted from their use (mostly fracking). Concerns of the latter type led to the passage in this state of legislation requiring stiffer regulation of such operations. The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has issued interim regulations and will issue permanent ones by the end of the year. Workshops in Santa Maria have been part of the process. Additionally, this county has amended its land use code to establish that its permits are not automatic and must be preceded by an environmental assessment.

Ballot Measure P 2014 would enact a ban on the use of "High Intensity Petroleum Operations" in all unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County. The prohibited operations are defined as: either those that increase the permeability of the formation, such as acidization or fracking, or those that simply aid the flow of oil by injecting water, steam or other substances. Exemptions are allowed for owners or operators who can show that the ban would cause a taking of their property or that they have a vested right to conduct a high intensity operation.

The proponents of Measure P 2014 say:

- This initiative would head off potentially large increases in air pollution including benzene, toluene, methylbenzene, xylene, particulates and greenhouse gases. The greenhouse gases emitted could negate the county's Climate Action Plan
- High intensity operations use and degrade too much precious water
- Above ground spills and below ground leaks into aquifers could result in serious water pollution problems
- Steam injection is the most energy-intensive form of oil production and is linked to seeps and sinkholes
- Earthquakes have been caused by the large amounts of wastewater from extreme oil extraction deep underground
- This ban will not affect current operations and extreme oil extraction will generate very few jobs
- This measure has been drafted to deal with the issues of vested rights and the taking of economic value of property; if necessary an exemption can be granted

Opponents of Measure P 2014 say:

- Water used for steam injection is not drinking water; instead it is wastewater separated from the produced oil or effluent from a sanitation plant
- The oil industry is an important part of the north county economy and this ban will result in a great decline in the industry and the loss of tax revenue that supports the county, schools and special districts
- Unemployment in the North County is high – the area cannot afford to lose current high paying jobs or the jobs that would potentially open up with the use of these new techniques
- "High intensity operations" are simply evolutions of techniques that have been standard practice for decades
- The legal liability imposed by Measure P on the county is potentially the greatest it has ever faced, according to the county counsel
- Science-based regulation such as what the state is developing is a better option than a complete prohibition based on anecdotal evidence from elsewhere
- Oil is needed as an ingredient in the manufacture of many products and such use is not a factor in global climate change

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you appreciate receiving the Channel Voter and invitations to events and parties via mail, phone and/or email, from LWVSB? Do you have basic computer skills? If so, you could be our next data administrator. This critical volunteer job oversees and maintains our database so that member and affiliate data is current and accessible and creates lists, mailing labels and reports. If you appreciate the communications you receive from our League, contact Co-President Joanie Jones, CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org.

Inside the League

League Studying Santa Barbara City Council Elections

A motion was passed at our Annual Meeting to conduct a local update study of our position on Santa Barbara City Council elections-- district v. at-large elections or other election options.

The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) of 2001 enacted various intended reforms to be inclusive of all groups in the voting process. "Racially polarized voting" has created legal problems for various cities. To date the State Supreme Court has not had a case presented that would allow the Court to rule on the legality of this part of the Act.

At the end of July, local attorney A. Barry Cappello filed a lawsuit against the City of Santa Barbara on behalf of Cruzito Cruz and several others. This suit alleges that the City suffers from "racially polarized voting," among other issues. There are many issues involved in the suit and within the CVRA. The City is looking at spending upwards of \$500,000 to defend itself against this action.

The League committee so far consists of Betsy Cramer, Connie Hannah, Shane Stark, Lindsey Baker, Susan Shank, Marty Blum and Vicki Allen, with Amanda Pelch as chair. We are continuing to look for a few more volunteers.

At our meetings we have discussed the focus and process of our study. The LWVC has good directions on conducting such a local study, but it is a daunting task. The exact direction is complicated by the suit and our previous local League position. In 1968 the City of Santa Barbara went from district to at-large elections. Our League then took a strong position for at-large elections. Our local League cannot change that position without further study and ultimate consensus from our membership.

It would be hard for us to not participate in this current debate. Much to the credit of LWVSB, with our current and past members, we have participated in many of these discussions throughout the years.

All comments, concerns and ideas are welcome. Please contact me at 452-5804, or apelch@yahoo.com.

Amanda Pelch, Study Chair

The Sustainable Communities Committee's History

In the late 1990's, a commission called by President Clinton began discussing a new concept for this country--"what will be sustainable in the future?" Suddenly everyone was talking about it. In 1998 the Santa Barbara League decided to form a Sustainable Communities Study Group, which has continued to meet for 15 years.

A little later the national League did a major study and found that many (or most) League positions would contribute to sustainability in the long run, and so we did not need a new position, but needed to use our existing positions to promote this goal.

In the beginning we looked at a global perspective on the question, guided by former president Lessie Nixon. Many presidents of this League have worked with the committee from the beginning because this has proved to be an essential part of our work. Soon after, under President Beverly King in 1999, we began to consider the Entrada Hotel's permitting process and impacts. That led us into our only two lawsuits and years of hearings. You will note that that issue is just now being resolved.

Over the years we have attended countless meetings concerning land use planning and General Plans and have usually offered a League perspective on the issues. We were very active while the new City of Goleta designed their original General Plan, and we endorsed it. So many changes have been made in that Plan that now we are very concerned about developments in that community. This year we have been very fortunate to have had as members: from Goleta, Margaret Connell, former mayor, Bill Shelor, former planning commissioner and Barbara Massey, activist par excellence, working with us, and we will continue to follow developments there in the coming year.

In 2006-2007 we had participated in 21 different issues, with the help of two-term president Cathy McCammon. In 2008, we changed our name a little when it was determined that we had been doing the work of a League committee all the way along! We are very grateful for the work of the Education, Water and Social Policy Committees, because they narrow the field for us a lot.

In recent years we have merged with the Energy Committee, and that has given us the invaluable guidance of two-term president Jean Holmes. We will continue our work on all aspects of oil development and promotion of the alternative forms of energy that we really need now.

We invite new or continuing League members with interest in any of these subjects to join us this year. We meet at the Encina Royale clubhouse near Fairview Avenue because our meetings often last two hours on a Friday morning and there is unlimited parking there. This has always been a large and energetic committee, and we cooperate with UCSB, CPA, the Goodland Coalition, the Environmental Defense Center and other organizations which are currently working with governments on these same issues.

Connie Hannah, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair

A Member Training—Or Two: Saturday, Sept. 13

Sign up for one session or two. The full-day's program will include a short lunch break. Open to all League members, this training will be offered by Management Training Advisor (MTA) Chris Carson of LWVC.

Who, Me a Leader?

Become even better leader in the League! Build your own personal skills in learning how to become better at developing and leading really effective and efficient meetings. At the same time, this will improve the dynamics of the League and its members, achieving better results from our meetings and making League activities more enjoyable for the members. The workshop will present simple, basic concepts you can take away and apply in meetings of any kind—board meetings, unit meetings, planning meetings, study committee meetings, etc.

Moderators: Public Face of the League

Candidate and issue forums are the bedrock of League activities in our communities. The moderator at such events is thereby the public face of the League to the community. Doing this job well requires learning the basic skills and management techniques of a conductor. The workshop will walk through the entire role of the moderator, from planning the event to managing the participants in the forums.

The sessions will be 10 a.m.-noon and 12:30-2:30 p.m. For more information and to reserve a space, contact Joanie Jones, 965-2422, or CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org by Sept. 10.

LWVSB Member Orientation: Monday, Sept. 22

If you are a new member, learn important information about the League (local, state and national). If you are a current member, refresh your knowledge and invite a friend to learn more about the League.

The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the League office, 328 East Carrillo, Suite A. You can RSVP by calling Amanda Pelch, 452-5804, or emailing apelch@yahoo.com.

Volunteer A Little Time

If you have some time and are interested in volunteering a bit of it for the good of the League, following is a list of projects that could use your help. If you are interested in getting involved, send an email to league@lwvsantabarbara.org and let us know what you would like to do. Someone will contact you to follow-up.

LWVVC Board Openings: The Nominating Committee is waiting to hear from you! We have our 2014-15 Board of Directors and Officers installed however, it is not too late to get involved as we still have several openings. Please consider taking on one of these jobs. Here are the primary roles to be filled.

Office Manager: This volunteer checks in at the office several times a week and is a great help to the public (who phone) and to the local board, which needs someone who works as a communication conduit. This is a learn-on-the-job volunteer post with support from members of the board while you are getting to know our office.

Membership Development or Member of Membership Committee: Welcome new members and send out packet to get them oriented to League; attend League and community meetings; as time permits set up membership table and pass out *Join Us* information; urge recruitment by existing members via outreach. Perfect roles for a committee of members to share.

Data Administration: We add new members to our local and national databases and keep track of changes in our members and member information in these files. Other tasks after training.

Social Policy Interest Group: We follow issues related to mental health, homelessness, housing, diversity, and immigration policy. We monitor local policy and services, and take action as needed. Please contact SocialPolicy@lwvsantabarbara.org

Channel Voter Production: We need someone to take photos at events and find visuals to highlight items in the newsletter. Good writers are always welcome too. Contact ChannelVoter@lwvsantabarbara.org

For any of the above you may also contact Joanie Jones, CoPresCommEd@lwvsantabarbara.org. The League needs you!

Working on a project for the LWVSB and need some help? Tell us what you need! Send an email to ChannelVoter@lwvsantabarbara.org and we'll include your request in the next newsletter. Please include dates, location and time of day.

Inside the League

Let's Play Jeopardy

Category: Observer Corps

Answer: Cheryl Rogers, Jane Benefield, Lindsey Baker, Karen Bunker, Lynda Van Patter, and Anita Baldwin

Question: Who are the revitalized Observer Corps members?

The League Observer Corps is an opportunity to attend meetings and learn first hand about local government processes and actions along with the individual and collective behavior of boards and commissions. Observer Corps members wear a prominent button announcing our League presence.

While our Observer Corps has been dormant for a while, we are now bringing it back in full force. We have hit the refresh button collecting some wonderful and energetic members ready to tackle the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara City Council, Planning Commission and other district meetings in our community. We are all excited to once again make our presence known, keeping an eye on our local government. And frankly it is fun! It has been our experience that League members add gravitas to these official meetings. These members are responsible for covering the following meetings:

Cheryl Rogers, Co-chair	SB City Council
Jane Benefield, Co-chair	All Carpinteria committees
Lindsey Baker	SB City Council
Karen Bunker	Goleta City Council
Lynda Van Patter	SB Board of Supervisors
Anita Baldwin	SB Planning Commission

Observers will scrutinize agendas alerting key persons to appropriate, and possibly immediate action. This flow of information is envisioned to be a continuous loop from individual Observers to Corps leadership and/or key board portfolio leaders, all the while keeping the membership informed via the Channel Voter.

Observer Corps offers invaluable experience for any member whether new or longtime. One can ease into the fray, as it were, gaining confidence while learning. Lesson number one is that all these panels are made up of average and not so average citizens, talented, eager and fallible human beings. (For example, we have noticed lackadaisical videographers who mislabel agenda items, lose audio connections, misdirect emails) these bothersome distractions can interfere with the public expectations of their officials. Although they are in positions of authority, we will be there to be sure that they are not authoritarian.

Co-Chairs Jane Benefield and Cheryl Rogers

Carpinteria Unit Leadership Change

For ten years, Barbara Godley has been the dauntless, competent and cheery leader of the Carpinteria Discussion Unit meeting. She has created a popular LWV meeting with lively, outspoken and opinionated participants, who she often reined in to reach a general consensus. She revved us up once or twice a year to visit schools, such as Carpinteria High School, to register new voters.

But it is time to pass the baton. Barbara will now attend the meetings without the hassle of providing refreshments and water, room setup and down, obtaining the room, schlepping literature and keeping records. But because her shoes need two people to fill them, Charlene Little and Jane Benefield will share the leadership responsibilities for now and the near future. Thank you Barbara--now we have to rein *you* in.

Jane Benefield and Charlene Little, Carpinteria Discussion Unit Leaders

Got Water?

Has there been a day when there wasn't an article in the paper about water? The League's Water Committee is holding monthly meetings about national, state and local water issues. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at noon at the League office, 328 East Carrillo, Suite A. We would like you to join us! If you would like to be called to remind you about the meetings, contact one of us (co-chairs).

Pat Shewczyk, 964-7506, or Joan Kerns, 687-7035

**LWV Santa Barbara Annual Member Survey
2014 - 2015**

NAME _____, phone # _____, email _____

Return this form to LWVSB Survey, 328 E. Carrillo St., Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Check all categories of interest to you. Note: some items below are new. Please see enclosed companion document "Opportunity Is Knocking" and call with questions about volunteering to any chair or to (805) 965-2422.

VOTER SERVICE

- Candidate and ballot measure forums
- Elections support
- Register voters
- Speakers for Pros & Cons
- Smart Voter

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- LWV State study on public higher education
- Local Study of City of Santa Barbara District vs. At-Large City Council Elections
- Speakers Bureau

NATURAL RESOURCES

(Environment and Sustainable Communities)

- Climate change
- Energy
- Planning
- Sustainable communities
- Water

GOVERNMENT

- Community Elections (LWVSB conduct for Homeowners, Farmers Market)
- Observer Corps
- State & National Action

INTERNATIONAL

- U.N. Association

SOCIAL POLICY

- Education
- Gun Violence
- Health care
- Homeless
- Housing
- Immigration
- Mental health
- Pro-Choice

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

- Database
- Discussion Units
- Special Events Teams (e.g.: holiday party, annual meeting)
- Facebook & Twitter
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Newsletter (Channel Voter)
- Office staff support
- Publicity
- Website

Please add any comments you wish to make & share any other interest or community groups you are involved in.

State League



New LWVC President Helen Hutchison To Fight for Voting Rights and Engage Californians in Civic Life

Last month, Helen Hutchison of Oakland was appointed President of the League of Women Voters of California and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund to serve a one-year term. She promises to fight for voting rights, responsible public policy, and to lead the charge in providing accessible, nonpartisan election information to all Californians.

“I am thrilled to lead our grassroots members and supporters in the fight for voting rights and will remain steadfast in our commitment to providing nonpartisan election information for California's diverse population,” Hutchison said. “We will continue to work hard for smart and responsible public policy to make our Golden State a fair and vibrant place for us all,” she added.

Energy Issues in the State Legislature

Two bills on different energy issues merited League attention this past summer. One bill, AB 2145, ostensibly was tweaking the basic authorization for Community Choice Aggregation programs. These programs, which are just getting started, can serve as a means of increasing our access to green power and the county and the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara have incorporated them into their long range climate action plans.

But AB 2145 in fact incorporated poison pills, for example, a requirement that prospective customers be told what rates they will be charged over the next five years while the big utilities have only to make a *projection* of their rates – no certain commitment for them. This, combined with other requirements amounted to an attack on the CCA concept, and LWV California decided to oppose the bill.

The other proposal is one we support--SB 1096 authored by our state senator, Hannah-Beth Jackson. This bill deals with offshore oil and gas leases in the tidelands three miles out along our coast. New leases were closed off by the establishment of a sanctuary in 1994, however with an exception for situations where production from a nearby federal lease includes tidelands oil that flows over to the federal wells as the pressure is lowered.

In contrast to the situation in 1994 there is now only one area where this exemption might apply. That is offshore Vandenberg Air Force Base in an area so ecologically rich the state has created a marine reserve there. Senator Jackson was undoubtedly influenced by the latest Tranquillon Ridge proposal (this one to slant drill from the base), but regardless of the outcome of this one project, it would be good to make the protection of the Coastal Sanctuary complete for now and the future.

At this writing both bills have been placed on Appropriations Committee suspense files and if they pass out successfully they must return to their house of origin for final passage there. Stay tuned.

Jean Holmes, Energy Director

US League

A Report on the LWVUS Convention

One unusual event this year was a contested race for League President. Evidently, the slate proposed by the nominating committee is usually elected automatically. However, this year, President Elizabeth MacNamara, who has been on the national board since 2006 and President for the last four years, was challenged by Deidre MacNab, who is President of the LWV Florida. A forum was held with the two candidates, followed by a secret ballot election on June 9. There was an excellent turnout and the result was a roughly 2 to 1 victory for Elizabeth MacNamara.

A number of excellent outside speakers addressed the convention. One of these was Annise Parker, the Mayor of Houston, who spoke on the first full day. She is an enthusiastic and proud League member. She is also funny. She said people never get elected by promising NOT to do something. She added that only people who are angry or upset talk to city hall, not people who are happy.

Stephen Murdock, former director of the Census Bureau and now the Texas Demographer, spoke about demographic trends in Texas and the U.S. He first pointed out the dramatic shift in population to the West and the South, which together now account for over 60 percent of the U.S. population. He also said that from 2000-2010 there was a huge increase in the number of Hispanics and almost no increase in Anglos. By 2050, only persons age 50 and over will be majority Anglo.

He concluded that education still pays off in terms of employment and earnings, and that Hispanics are very underrepresented in the college age population. He argued that the future of the U.S. is tied to minority population and it is critical to invest in early childhood education.

Continued on Page 9

The adopted agriculture position closely reflects the local consensus findings. Two important resolutions passed—one in favor of a price on carbon emissions as part of an overall plan to improve energy efficiency and the other in favor of restoring voting rights to felons who have been released from prison. A new position was adopted on human trafficking, which will apply to all League levels—local to international.

According to Elisabeth MacNamera, “We have committed ourselves to going back home, not afraid to get in the way of big moneyed interests on voting rights, campaign finance reform, redistricting and climate change. We have committed ourselves to growing and strengthening the League by broadening our Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) network.”

Susan Shank, Convention Delegate

The Personal Histories of Our 50-Year Members

The Channel Voter is continuing to tell the personal stories of some of our amazing members who have been Leaguers for 50 or more years.

Lillian P. Lovelace

I was born and lived my early years in Santa Monica. My family was very active in political and social justice issues during the turbulent 30s and 40s, taking a very active role in the establishment of the consumers cooperative wholesale and resale business in California after its beginning in Sweden. I chose to attend Antioch College, founded by Horace Mann in Ohio, because of its motto of “Be ashamed to die before you win some victory for humanity.” I majored in psychology and early childhood education and because of illness in my family, I transferred to UCLA. I finally graduated from Antioch in Santa Barbara in 1989, with children and grandchildren in attendance.

My husband, Jon, and I lived with our four children in Whittier from 1957 until 1972. The LWV was a very important part of my life there as I was chairing many committees and finally was the Whittier League president. We moved to Santa Barbara in 1972 and I continued my membership in the League, but was so busy going back to college to finish my degree in the Antioch adult and graduate school that I have not been as active here. I have kept up my membership and support for League at the national, state and local levels.

I am now trustee emeritus of the board of governors of Antioch University, from which I received an honorary doctoral degree. I also serve as emeritus trustee on the boards of Antioch Santa Barbara and Antioch Los Angeles. I am also on the board of Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, The Capital Group Foundation, the Brain Mapping Medical Research Organization at UCLA and a trustee of the UCSB Foundation. Also at UCSB my husband and I started the Martin Marty Lectureship for the study of religion and public life and I am a member of the chancellor’s council. I have served on the board of the Santa Barbara City College Foundation and Phoenix of Santa Barbara, and am a life honorary trustee at the SB Museum of Art. I was also president of the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in Santa Barbara.

I am glad indeed that I was able to participate in the League earlier in my life, as it was an invaluable education in political and governmental action and a lesson in non-partisan research as well as the bi-partisan decision-making process that is hard to find in today’s political world.



League members planning fall programs



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
 Student \$35
 Please send me more information about League
 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. Amanda Pelch, 452-5804.

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 Amount \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Membership News: September-October 2014

The Dues Renewal process is in full swing. The first round of five types of renewal letters were sent out via Bulk Mail in early July 2014. Receipt of dues has been brisk so far. Included in the renewal letters were the Opportunity Is Knocking brochure and the 2014-15 Member Interest Survey. The surveys are coming in much slower. Thus we are including a new Member Interest Survey in this Channel Voter. Please update your interests. We want to call on you to help the League--but first we need to know what you would like to do. Because this information is critical for the smooth administration of the League, we encourage you to complete them.

Linda Mayo has been our Data Administration person. She is busily updating our local database, File Maker Pro and the national database. Linda designed the FMP options to include our Interest Survey results so we can match each volunteer to the activities they would like to participate in. Linda Mayo's retirement from Data Administration, effective Aug. 31, will leave a big hole in administration. We are diligently looking for several volunteers who would like to learn this data input process. Please volunteer--and any suggestions are welcome.

The second set of Dues Renewal letters, to those who have not renewed their membership, is being sent out in early September. This letter announces that those who have not paid their membership dues will be dropped from membership effective Sep. 30, 2014. In mid to late October a final letter will be sent to all who have not paid their dues, stating their membership has lapsed. Of course we offer to reinstate upon payment of dues.

Amanda Pelch, Temporary Membership Director

In Memoriam: Jean Baker Matthaei, Herb Linville and Fred Eissler.

As we have in the past, the League of Women Voters members and friends may make a contribution to LWV Santa Barbara in memory of Herb Linville, a long-time devoted volunteer with the LWVSB, 1928-2014.



LWVSB Annual Meeting (with speakers, Antioch College President Nancy Leffert, left, and SBCC President Lori Gaskin, right)



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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.

Printed on recycled paper.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER: No Discussion Units This Month

- 13 Saturday: Facilitator Training and Moderator Training, with Chris Carson, LWVC Management Training Advisor; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** For League members; reserve by Sept. 10 (league@lwvsantabarbara.org)
- 17 Wednesday: Community Forum: Debating the Merits of Ballot Measure P 2014. noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St.** Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.
- 20 Saturday: LWVSB Board Meeting, 10 a.m., League Office, 328 East Carrillo St., Suite A.**
- 22 Monday: "Orientation/Welcome Members;" 5:30-7 p.m., LWVSB Office, 328 East Carrillo St. Suite A.**
- 23 Tuesday: Voter Registration Day.** Volunteers needed. For details contact VoterServ@lwvsantabarbara.org.
- 28 Sunday: "Tough Guise 2, Violence, Manhood & American Culture," 3-5 p.m., Fe Bland Forum, Santa Barbara City College, West Campus, Coalition Against Gun Violence, LWVSB is co-sponsor.**
- 30 Tuesday: The Empowered Women Luncheon with Valerie Plame Wilson, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Canary Hotel, 31 W. Carrillo. Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley AAUW, LWVSB is co-sponsor. Tickets \$100 (\$75 for AAUW members); reserve by Sept. 19 (sbgv.aauw.net)**

OCTOBER: DISCUSSION UNITS: Ballot Assistance, an Open Discussion

- 7 Tuesday: Madame Lu's Restaurant, 3524 State St., 5:30 p.m.** Contact Karen Bunker, 967-0838.
- 8 Wednesday, Carpinteria Unit, 10 a.m. Carpinteria Women' Club, 1059 Vallecito Rd.** Contact Jane Benefield, 684-6086, or Charlene Little, 969-2956.
- 12 Pros and Cons on Ballot Measures for Nov. 4 Election, 3 p.m., 1st United Methodist Church, 305 Anapamu St., Asbury Room.** Presented by LWVSB; hosted by the Church Faith and Society Committee. The public is invited.
- 13 Monday: Valle Verde Unit, noon-2 p.m.** Community Room (new location), 900 Calle de los Amigos. Brown bag lunch. Contact Joan Kerns, 678-7035, for directions.
- 15 Wednesday: Community Forum: Let the League Help You with the Ballot Measures, noon-2 p.m., Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina St.** Brown bag lunch; free and open to the public.
- 24 Friday: UN Day, Faulkner Gallery, Main Library, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.** Town Hall Community Forum organized by the United Nations Association Santa Barbara & Tri-County Chapter; co-sponsored by LWVSB. "How Can the NGO, Non-Profit Community, Collaborate to Better Serve Our Youth." Free (lunch included). 968-8567.

Remember to check the LWVSB website (www.lwvsantabarbara.org) for the latest event information.