



# Santa Cruz Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

October 2011

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## Role of the Federal Government in Education to be Discussed at October Meetings

### Education Study Consensus Meetings

October 14 and 28, 1-3 P.M.

150 Scenic Drive, Santa Cruz

## Fall 2011 Calendar

Tuesday, October 11, 1-3 P.M.

**Board Meeting at Santa Cruz County Bank**

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Friday, October 14, 1-3 P.M.

**First National Education Consensus Meeting**

150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz

Saturday, October 22, 3 P.M.

**Campaign for a Healthy California Kickoff**

275 Main Street, Watsonville

Friday, October 28, 1-3 P.M.

**Second National Education Consensus Meeting**

150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, November 8, 1-3 P.M.

**Board Meeting at Santa Cruz County Bank**

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Saturday, November 19, 11:30 A.M.-2 P.M.

**The State of Santa Cruz County's Financial Condition**

**Buffet Lunch in Aptos with Mary Jo Walker,**

**more info at <http://lwvsc.org/calendar.html>**

In 2010 the local LWV chapters throughout the nation held National program planning meetings and chose two areas of study from among the many interesting ideas suggested. This month LWVSCC will hold two consensus meetings to discuss the role of the Federal Government in public education, one of two issues adopted for study (the second study is on Privatization). For more detail on this process, refer to the Leaders' Guide, posted on line. While we all have interesting stories to tell related to schools, we will be focusing on the subject matter of the study in our meetings in a more general way. Participation in the consensus meetings is for current League of Women Voters members.

Both meetings will be held on Fridays from 1 to 3 in the afternoon at John and Sandy Warren's home (150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz). Light refreshments will be provided. The first meeting on October 14 will focus on Core Standards and Assessments. Two weeks later at the second meeting on October 28 the topic will be Funding and Equity Issues.

Our National Program Committee on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education consists of local LWV members Barbara Lewis and Ann Wise (discussion facilitators for the October 14 and 28 meetings respectively); Joyce Aoyagi and Jack Dilles (presenters);

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## Campaign for a Healthy California Kickoff to be held in Watsonville

LWVSCC, the California Nurses Association, and the Santa Cruz Chapter of Health Care for All are co-sponsoring an event to kick-off a new campaign to bring comprehensive universal single-payer health care to California. The state of Vermont did it. Will the great state of California be next? Come to the campaign kickoff and find out how we can create a single-payer health care system in California.

Scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at 3:00 p.m., at the Watsonville Civic Plaza, the event will be moderated by Santa Cruz County Treasurer Fred Keeley and features James Haslam, Executive Director of the Vermont Workers' Center, Andrew McGuire, Executive Director of California One Care, and Donna Smith, a National Nurses United organizer whose story was featured in the movie "SiCKO."

Saturday, October 22, 2011  
3:00 PM  
Watsonville Civic Plaza,  
4th Floor Community Room,  
275 Main Street, Watsonville,  
California  
FREE ADMISSION & PARKING  
Directions  
at <http://lwvsc.org/calendar.html>  
Call Jan Karwin at (831)460-1714  
if you want to carpool.

## Superintendent Encourages Innovation in Schools

On Friday September 16, as part of the national League study on the role of the Federal Government in education, our local League hosted a public luncheon program featuring Michael Watkins, County Superintendent of Schools, as the speaker. He talked about the issues facing K-12 education and offered some solutions while emphasizing the importance of the League's involvement.

California schools are at or near the bottom nationally in funding per student, student teacher ratios, and many other benchmarks of success. The League can help by lobbying for increased spending on education and working toward change that can insure equity in funding. According to Mr. Watkins, the federal No Child Left Behind Act has not been successful, and California is asking for a complete waiver from participating in the program. He states that we need to rethink how success is measured.

Other problems addressed by Mr. Watkins included the need for high quality preschool programs. He stated that by 3rd grade the potential for dropping out is determined. Poverty, which affects behavior and academic performance, and health issues such as autism need attention as well.

Our educational system needs to adapt. Mr. Watkins discussed innovative solutions such as online education, creative funding, and alternative education programs. He feels that schools need to "tap into students' passions." Santa Cruz County has 24 alternative education programs tailored to the specific needs of students.

--Kathy Van Horn

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

## LWVSCC Adds Many New Members This Year

We would like to welcome those who have joined our Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters at or since the Annual Meeting. Additions to our local League are Joan Brown, Audie Henry, and Lynda Elliot. Joan is a former membership chairperson and has hosted unit meetings for our local League; Audie decided to join after being a national member; Lynda was previously a member of the Los Gatos League of Women Voters. All are interested in the studies and actions of all levels of our group. Our recent membership additions are involved in other community groups and have a strong interest in education.

So far, 2011 has been a banner year for adding community leaders and people with a lot to offer to our local roster. We have engaged members who joined this year and in recent years in our study activities. These include Dorrie Kennedy, Marcia Minnihan, Nancy Litvak, and Joan Brown. Recent additions to our membership with leadership experience in civic activities and political office include Jack Dilles, Rose Fillicetti, Cynthia Mathews, Gary Patton, Celia Scott, Karin Grobe, Dinah Sapia, and Lynn Houser.

We are planning a series of membership events in homes for those who have recently joined the League locally. If you would be available to attend, sending an e-mail to [bobbi44@gmail.com](mailto:bobbi44@gmail.com) stating the dates and times you could come and whether you are available on weekdays would be helpful and save time in scheduling.

--Barbara Lewis  
Membership Vice President

## President's Message

Many thanks to Barbara Lewis, Chairperson of our national study committee, for organizing a wonderful catered luncheon at the County Office of Education to kick off the study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. Peggy Marketello and Maria Nesheim, our Program Co-chairs, provided the perfect desserts to top off the buffet lunch. Sandy Warren, our Treasurer, who is essential to the success of our luncheon events, received the reservations and, with the help of Dorrie Kennedy and Marcia Minnihan, made sure that the check-in process worked smoothly. Thank you all. Superintendent Michael Watson's presentation provided a wealth of information and was motivation for our members to participate in the League's national study consensus meetings scheduled in October.

In between our two national study consensus meetings, our League will be co-sponsoring a new campaign kick-off to bring universal single-payer health care to California. I hope you plan to attend.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19 when our League sponsors a public address on the State of the County's Financial Condition by Mary Jo Walker, Auditor-Controller for the County of Santa Cruz. The event includes a catered lunch with prepaid reservations. Check our online [calendar of events](http://lwwscc.org) ([lwwscc.org](http://lwwscc.org)) for details and share the flyer with your family and friends.

As you can see, our Program Directors have done a great job of planning our fall schedule. Please show your appreciation and support by attending these events. You'll be glad you did.

--Jan Karwin, President

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## Study Committees Needed

Does the prospect of privatization of government functions, services and assets concern you? Would you like to help our members learn about what's at stake? Does the state initiative and referendum process have problems? Can it be improved? These studies were adopted at recent national and state League conventions to engage our members in establishing new League positions through consensus.

You can help our local League participate in these studies by chairing a study committee, reading the prepared study materials, sharing the information with our members, or facilitating a consensus meeting.

This is a terrific educational and leadership opportunity for new as well as experienced members. Contact me. You can help make it happen!

--Jan Karwin, President (831)460-1714

## Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

\_\_\_\_\$65 Individual annual membership

\_\_\_\_\$97.50 Two members in a household

\_\_\_\_\$30.00 Student membership

\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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and Nancy Litvak, Marcia Minnihan, Dorrie Kennedy, Sandy Warren, and Kathy Van Horn. The committee members have read some or all of the background papers currently posted on the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) web site in preparation for serving as resource people. We strongly encourage our other members to do some preparation, too.

The October 14 meeting will begin with a short introduction about the study provided by Barbara Lewis, followed by a presentation by Joyce Aoyagi on Core Standards and Assessments. Sandy Warren is the recorder and Kathy Van Horn is the timekeeper for this meeting. Leagues throughout the United States will come to consensus on this study so that the League may speak to this topic in the future. Those present will answer three questions before the presentation and discussion, and then revisit those same questions afterwards to see if their answers have changed. If you would like to see the consensus questions prior to the meeting, view them online in the Leaders' Guide (listed under Public Education at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), or you can wait until they are asked at the October 14 meeting. To make it easier to follow the discussion, Nancy Litvak will distribute handouts of the consensus questions for this meeting, a glossary of terms, and one of the background papers: The Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives, including a chart for easy reference (copies provided by Barbara Lewis). If there is no agreement on the answer to a given question, we will move on, with our timekeeper as a guide.

At the October 28 meeting, presenter Jack Dilles will begin by speaking on Funding and Equity issues. Facilitator is Ann Wise and recorder is Joyce Aoyagi. There will also be handouts available of background papers, glossaries, and consensus questions. Marcia Minnihan will help with handouts. We will follow a similar format to the first meeting and expect some more lively discussion. Again, we will be timing the questions, then moving on to the next in order to conclude and summarize the answers in a timely manner. If you missed the first meeting, you should still be able to follow the study, but, hopefully, you can attend both.

If you would like detailed directions to Sandy Warren's home before the meeting, e-mail Barbara Lewis at [bobbi44@gmail.com](mailto:bobbi44@gmail.com) or phone 335-7816. If you are unfamiliar with the area, checking a map or getting directions on line helps.

Your participation is very important, so make every effort to come in October.

--Barbara Lewis, National Program chairperson

