



SEPTEMBER 2011

# *Santa Cruz Voter*

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

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## SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TO SPEAK AT LWV LUNCHEON

### A Presentation by Michael Watkins: Confronting Issues and Creating Solutions for Schools in the 21st Century

As part of a timely and important LWVUS study on the impact of the Federal government on public education, the League has invited Michael Watkins, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, to address the public at a luncheon meeting at the County Office of Education on Friday, September 16 at 11:30 (pre-paid reservations required; see sidebar for full details). Watkins will discuss alternative and mainstream education, the impact of national common core standards and assessments, and school funding and equity issues.

Watkins' career in Santa Cruz County schools spans 30 years. Since moving to Aptos in 1980, he has served as General Administrator in charge of Special Education programs for the county, creating mainstreaming opportunities for students with special needs and developing community and vocational opportunities for this population. In 1989, Watkins became Director of Alternative Education at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. First elected as Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools in 2006, Watkins was reelected in 2010.

**Event Details:** Date: Friday, September 16, 2011 Time: 11:30 a.m. Open to the public. Pre-paid reservations required.

**Schedule:** 11:30 a.m. Social and check in. Noon: Lunch, followed by presentation 2:00 p.m. Program concludes

**Cost: \$22.00:** Check for \$22 per person made out to LWVSCC must be received by September 8. Mail to: Sandy Warren; 150 Scenic St.; Santa Cruz 95060

**Buffet Menu:** Green salad; Chicken with artichokes, mushrooms, and tomatoes; Portabella mushrooms, over cheesy polenta; grilled vegetables; Wild rice pilaf; Rolls with butter; Dessert.

**Location:** County Office of Education; Tech Center; 400 Encinal Street; Santa Cruz

**Directions:** From Highway 9 turn onto Encinal Street; the Office of Education is on the right after the second stop sign. Park in the upper parking lot or on the streets. Look for signs directing you to the Tech Center Room. Detailed directions and map can be found on line at <http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/directions.html>

Information: Barbara Lewis at 335-7816 [bobbi44@gmail.com](mailto:bobbi44@gmail.com)

## League Study: The Role of Federal Government in Education

The Santa Cruz County League has formed a committee to help members participate in the nationally-adopted LWV study of the role of the federal government in public education. The committee started meeting in July to review the study materials and plan League meetings scheduled for September and October.

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the common core standards and assessments required for many federal grant programs. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

Education study background papers are accessible on-line at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (from the "Home" page, select "For Members"; "Projects and Programs"; then "Public Education"; click on "Get Informed!"). I encourage all League members to read these papers in preparation for the study meetings scheduled this fall. I look forward to working with our study committee this summer and hope to see good attendance at the presentations and member consensus meetings this fall, which will occur on October 14 and 28 at the home of Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz. Look for more details in the October newsletter.

Barbara Lewis  
Vice President, National Study Committee Chair;  
LWV of Santa Cruz County  
bobbi44@gmail.com or phone 335-7816

## Calling All Volunteers

Want to be more involved with the League? To help voters be more informed, you can help Voter Service Chair Morgan Rankin during the lead up to elections. To volunteer or for more information, call Morgan at 426-6412.

## President's Message

Dear League Members,

You may have noticed that our VOTER newsletter looks different. I'm pleased and proud to tell you why. A few days ago, our new VOTER Editor Pam Newbury attended an online LWV of California webinar about e-newsletters. The state League is encouraging local Leagues to adapt their newsletters to online viewing without the need to open an attachment or link to a website. There are many advantages to e-newsletters, not the least of which is that e-newsletters are more likely to be read. The day after the webinar, Pam dove into this project with courage and determination. Over the next several months you may see the "look and feel" of our e-newsletter evolve as Pam becomes more familiar with the program and experiments with various formats, fonts and features. In the past, we were one of the last local Leagues in California to establish a website; today, we're going to be among the first local Leagues to have a true e-newsletter, thanks to Pam.

As you can see by reading this newsletter, on September 16 we'll kick-off the national League study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education with a catered lunch at the County Office of Education. We're fortunate to have as our featured speaker Michael Watkins, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools. I recommend that you get your reservations in early as the public is invited and we expect a good turn-out. Think about bringing a prospective League member with you. To download a flyer for this event to share with your friends, click here: [September 16 luncheon flyer](#)

Jan Karwin  
President

# Calendar

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 1-3 pm	League Board meeting at Santa Cruz County Bank, 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, 95060
Friday, September 16, 2011 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Lunch with Michael Watkins (see details on page 1)
Fridays, October 14 and 28, 2011	National Education Study Consensus Meeting. 50 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz. Details to be announced. Contact Barbara Lewis bobbi44@gmail.com or phone 335-7816

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County  
PO Box 1745 Capitola | CA 95010 | (831)426-VOTE(8683)  
league@lwvsc.org | <http://lwvsc.org> | Editor: Pam Newbury  
To join the League go to [4]<http://lwvsc.org/join.html>

*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.*