



Santa Cruz VOTER

League of Women Voters® of Santa Cruz County

November 2012

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In this Issue

Calendar	1
November Luncheon	1
Voter Registration Day	2
Membership	3
President's Message.....	4
LWVC Ballot Recommendations.....	5
Voter Resources.....	5

Breaking the Cycle of Contempt: How to Fix the Initiative

featured speaker

**Author
Mark Paul**

**Thursday
November 15
11:30 A.M.**



Hoffman's
Bistro and Patisserie
1102 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz

*Open to League members and the public.
Cost: \$20 per person (see details at end of article)*

Calendar

Tuesday, November 13, 2012
1 -3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thursday, November 15, 2012
11:30 A.M.

Lunch with author Mark Paul
Hoffman's Bistro and Patisserie
1102 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
RSVP by November 11, 2012



Dates to save for 2013:

Thursday, January 24 2013
Thursday, February 28 2013
Initiative and Referendum Study
consensus meetings; details to be
announced.

Have ineffective lawmakers bungled California's government, or have angry citizens voted in too many laws that impede good governance? California's unique requirement that initiatives not be changed by legislators alone frustrates and obstructs lawmakers. Citizens react by passing further restrictions. California's legislators and voters act as separate halves of the legislative branch, each legislating separately without being linked in any meaningful way. At our November 15 luncheon, author Mark Paul will explain how we can leave the blame behind and fix both direct democracy and the legislature so that these two systems complement each other, instead of just frustrating each other.

—Continued on page 3

Successful National Voter Registration Day in Santa Cruz



Joyce Anderson and Cathi O'Neill registering voters in downtown Santa Cruz

Aptos. Joyce Anderson and Cathi O'Neill registered 7 voters on Pacific Avenue in downtown Santa Cruz. Jan Karwin and her daughter-in-law, Rheta Negrete Karwin, registered 4 voters on the spot and handed out 70 voter registration forms to students or staff in a hurry to get to class at the Watsonville campus of Cabrillo College. Dorrie Kennedy and Nancy Abbey registered 10 voters at Ben Lomond Market in Scotts Valley. Morgan Rankin and Eve Roberson registered 24 voters at the Capitola Mall.

Altogether we registered 58 people on this gratifying day, especially since many of the people we registered were first-time voters. Our heartfelt thanks to all our faithful members who participated!

In addition to voter registration, this election season kept our Voters Service volunteers busy with other election activities. Morgan Rankin did two Pros and Cons talks on the ballot measures and Eve Roberson and Sue Becker did six, a very important service to help voters become informed. Thanks also to Jan Karwin, who represented the League at a debate at Cabrillo College. Ann Wise and Morgan Rankin moderated three candidate forums. Our wonderful timers were Joyce Aoyagi, Barbara Lewis, and Pam Newbury.

Voters Service is what many people identify the League by. Thank you all for being part of this.

—Morgan Rankin and Eve Roberson,

Voters Service co-chairs

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County is proud to have taken part in the National Voter Registration Day drive on September 25, 2012. There were 249 League Chapters who participated in all 50 states, along with more than 1,000 other organizations. A total of 3,600 volunteers registered 180,000 voters.

Many local League members stepped up to help register voters and hand out registration forms. Kathy Van Horn and Wendy Harris registered 13 voters at Cabrillo College in



Membership

Welcome to our new members Dorothy Fry and Wendy Harris, who both came to our September luncheon meeting on health care. Dorothy, an American Association of University Women member, has arranged for pros and cons on the ballot measures to be presented to their local chapter. Wendy Harris, a student at Cabrillo College, is working on voter registration, learning about ballot initiatives, and recruiting other student members. On September 21, with Joyce Anderson hostessing, several recent additions to our League shared experiences and increased their knowledge about how the League of Women Voters works. Those attending were: current League secretary, Kathy Van Horn, Jan Beautz, Geri McGillicuddy, Dorothy Fry, Audie Henry, and Barbara Lewis. This is the third membership coffee hosted by Joyce Anderson and the fourth one to take place during the past year, with each one having a unique direction. Attendees at these events have moved quickly to participate in League activities, such as Voters Service.

Updated membership rosters were e-mailed to current members on September 30 with the help of Laura Grossman and Pam Newbury. On September 28, Barbara Lewis printed and mailed copies to the nine members who currently do not have e-mail. These local rosters should make communications easier within our group. Several drops occurred in our membership due to moves out of Santa Cruz County and job losses, which we hope are temporary. Joan Brown has rejoined the League of Women Voters in Prescott, AZ, where she moved this summer to be near her daughter.

Elizabeth Prince, a former League of Women Voters treasurer and long time member, passed away peacefully at her home in Aptos on the evening of September 23, just before her 97th birthday. I recall going with Elizabeth Prince and Jan Karwin to the state convention in Los Angeles and enjoying an outing to see "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie. A lover of theater, Elizabeth was a member of the Carmel Forest Theater Guild, where she was in charge of sets and enjoyed small parts in productions. She

was a high school teacher, Vice Principal and Dean of Girls at Edwin Markham Junior High, Principal of Willow Glen Elementary School, and Director of Special Education for San Jose Unified School District. In retirement, she was active in many community groups, including the American Association of University Woman and the California Retired Teachers Association, bringing to each experience competence and a sense of humor.

—Barbara Lewis, Membership Vice President

—Continued from page 1
Breaking the Cycle of Contempt

Mark Paul, co-author of *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*, (www.californiacrackup.com) has written about California policy and politics for three decades as a journalist, policy thinker, and state official. In preparation for our study on the California referendum process, Paul will address the Santa Cruz LWV at a luncheon in Hoffman's Bistro & Patisserie on Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz, at 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, November 15th.

Reservations for the \$20 luncheon and presentation must be made by November 11th. Send your check made out to LWVSCC with your luncheon preference (see below) to: Peggy Marketello, 117 Oak Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95065. Space is limited, so send in your reservation early. For questions, contact Peggy at 831-423-0782 or pm4art@aol.com

Choose your sandwich and let us know if you want it with clam chowder, lentil soup, salad, or fries: **#1. Club** (turkey or chicken); **#2. Brie with Pears**; **#3. Hoffman's Burger**; **#4. Hoffman's Veggie Burger**. Also indicate your choice for dessert: **Berry Cobbler** or **Cheesecake**. Please see our website <http://lwvsc.org/calendar.html> for complete sandwich and dessert descriptions and a link to a flyer you can share with your friends.

President's Message



Dear Fellow League Members:

On October 22 I attended the *First Annual Cabrillo College Town Hall: Election 2012 and the California Ballot, Debating the Propositions* event sponsored by the Associated Students of Cabrillo College Senate. Trevor Nakagawa, a member of the Political Science Department, acted as moderator. Don Lane, the mayor of Santa Cruz, spoke of the importance of the Town Hall concept and expressed the hope that the college would continue to sponsor such debates. Students who were not already registered to vote were given the opportunity to register at a booth set up outside the hall.

The panelists discussed and debated Propositions 30, 32, 34 and 36. Proposition 34, the death penalty initiative, engendered a particularly lively debate with Professor Ellen Kreitzberg, of the Santa Clara Law School, speaking in favor of the amendment and Mike Rotkin, former Mayor of Santa Cruz, speaking not so much in opposition but acting as a "devil's advocate." Proposition 32, "Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction," also received a lot of attention because the college professors belong to a union. When Proposition 36, the "Three Strikes Law" was debated, our own Jan Karwin, who was also on the panel, presented background information on the Three Strikes Law adopted by the voters in

1994 and a neutral summary of the provisions of the current proposition to amend it. Professor Kreitzberg spoke in favor of Proposition 36 and Phil Carr, a Criminal Justice professor at Cabrillo, spoke as "devil's advocate." Proposition 30, "Temporary Taxes to Fund Education," received a lot of attention, too. Dr. Dan Rothwell, a member of the Cabrillo College faculty, spoke in favor of it and Ethan Bearman, a radio show host, spoke against.

All in all, I thought it was an excellent, well-attended debate, and felt that the students asked interesting questions. I'm pleased that Jan was able to represent the League.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to our November 15 luncheon meeting at Hoffman's Bistro at 11:30 A.M. Our speaker will be author Mark Paul, and his topic, "Breaking the Cycle of Contempt: How to Fix the Initiative," should be very helpful in preparing members for the Initiative and Referendum Study consensus meetings to be held in January and February. So many initiatives have been passed over the years that our assembly members and state senators must have to seek legal counsel before they can enact a statute. Details on the luncheon and RSVP information can be found in the article on page 1.

Our Board will be meeting on November 13. The election will be over by then!!! Hurrah!!! Kudos to all the League members who have worked hard getting out the vote, working at polling places, and helping with all the other tasks in connection with this election.

Happy Veteran's Day to all.

Sincerely,
Irene Thomas
President LWVSCC

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.

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

____\$100.00 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_____

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LWV of California takes a stand on November ballot propositions

In accordance with its studied positions, the California LWV recommends:

YES on Prop 30: Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act

NO on Prop 31: Government Performance and Accountability Act

NO on Prop 32: Special Exemptions Act

YES on Prop 34: SAFE California Act

YES on Prop 40: Referendum on Redistricting

The League is neutral or has no position on the other six Propositions on the Nov. 6 ballot: 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, & 39. More information on the League's recommendations is available at

<http://ca.lwv.org/ballot-recommendations>

League election resources ready to help voters on November 6

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) has many free, non-partisan resources for voters. Put in your address and find your polling place, what's on your ballot, and information about candidates and issues from local to federal at www.smartvoter.org. Many candidates have submitted information about their positions and qualifications. You can also check out Smart Voter for results after the election.

Prefer to get your information in a video format? On LWVCEF's Youtube channel you'll find video presentations of pros and cons for all the ballot measures. <http://www.youtube.com/user/LWVCEF>

At www.cavotes.org the LWVCEF offers voters a wealth of information and resources on election law, voters' rights, registering to vote and different methods of voting, how to evaluate ballot measures, how elections work from local to state levels, general information about state and local financing, campaign financing, redistricting, and much more.

New voters and voters in a hurry should check out the fast facts, Easy Voter Guide, and other resources available at www.easyvoterguide.org