



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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In this Issue

<i>Calendar</i>	1
<i>Rocking the Vote</i>	1
<i>Thank You, Donors</i>	1
<i>Initiative & Referendum Study Results</i> --	2
<i>LWVC Convention Report</i>	2
<i>Public Safety Report</i>	3
<i>Keeping in Touch with the SCPD</i>	4
<i>Membership Report</i>	5
<i>President's Message</i>	5

Calendar

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

1 -3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thank You, Donors!

LWVSCC wishes to thank everyone whose donations have helped our League thrive; Since June of this year the following donations have been made: Virginia Law donated \$100 to the general fund and Thomas and Peggy Miller donated \$50 to the education fund in honor of League member Juliana Rousseau, who passed away in August. Donations of \$35 to the general fund were made by Emma Bowman, Eloise Graham, Laura Grossman, Jan Karwin, Pam Newbury, Eve Roberson, and Ann Wise. Additionally, Dorrie Kennedy donated \$18, and Joan Burns donated \$10 to the general fund. Education fund donations also included Judy Dudley who donated \$20 and Ann Wise who donated \$50. Tax deductible education fund donations are used primarily for voter services and educational materials. The League greatly appreciates all donations.

Local League Members Help “Rock the Vote”

Local League members joined with volunteers nationwide on September 24 to celebrate National Voter Register Day by registering voters at four county locations: the two Cabrillo College campuses in Aptos and Watsonville, the Ben Lomond Market, and Safeway on Mission Street in Santa Cruz. Our team of League registrars included Sue Becker, Kathy Donovan, Dottie Fry, Wendy Harris, Joan Hebert, Lynn Houser, Jan Karwin, Dorrie Kennedy, Peggy Marketello, Pam Newbury, Eve Roberson, Eric Thomassen and Sandy Warren. A total of 33 Santa Cruz County residents were either registered on the spot or given registration forms to take home and complete.

Santa Cruz County residents are also advised that they can register to vote online through several websites, including the Santa Cruz County Elections Department at <http://www.votescount.com/>, the League of Women Voters of California at <http://ca.lwv.org/>, or the California Secretary of State at <http://www.sos.ca.gov/>. Many thanks to the above League members for volunteering their time to this important League voters service activity.

—Sue Becker and Jan Karwin, Voters Service Co-Chairs



Dottie Fry (left) and Kathy Donovan (right) register voters at the Cabrillo College Watsonville Center on September 24, 2013.

Updated LWVC Position on Initiatives and Referendums

In January and February our local League participated in a study on California's initiative and referendum process. We debated the pros and cons of numerous questions about the process, then the state League gathered our results, tallied them with those from other Leagues throughout California, and updated our position accordingly.

Key changes to the position now allow LWVC to advocate for:

- mandatory pre-circulation reviews to be made public
- initiatives requiring funding to specify the source or method of funding
- having the title and summary written by an impartial, nonpartisan official
- electronic signature gathering
- constitutional amendments to have higher standards to qualify than for initiatives and require more than a simple majority vote to pass
- allowing the legislature to have limited ability to amend initiatives

Additionally, a new section was added listing principles to be used in evaluating proposed changes to the initiative and referendum process.

The updated position can be found at <http://ca.lwv.org/position/initiative-and-referendum>

A list of what's new can be found at <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/upd2013/june/2013-May-IR-Whats-New.pdf>

Find out what the changes mean at <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/docs/2013-May-IR-Whats-It-Mean.pdf>

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.

LWVC Convention Report

Three things stood out for me when I attended my first statewide League convention in May. The first was how carefully the League holds to parliamentary procedures, the second was how much knowledge on a wide range of issues was contained in this group of people, and the third was how a real passion for an issue can affect the direction in which the group is headed.

One of the first sessions I attended was an overview of parliamentary procedure run by Jackie Jacobberger, who acted as parliamentarian for the convention. It was a little overwhelming, until I saw the procedures put to use in the plenary sessions.

All of the caucus sessions I attended were excellent. The one on water issues in California presented a wealth of information about the Delta and the Central Valley, disappearing groundwater, and attempts at conservation. The only drawback is that it started at 8:30 PM at the end of a full day. (Maybe there needs to be a NoDoz concession in the lobby.)

The caucus session on California Community Colleges took an interesting turn when a few attendees started to talk about supporting a study of all public higher education in California. The discussion led to a move, led by two young, male League members, to ask the membership to support a study of higher education, even though it had not previously had sufficient support of the membership. On the first vote in the plenary session, they lost by a single vote, but a little later, in line with parliamentary procedure, someone who had voted against the study asked for a re-vote, and, this time, the study passed. (To read more about this story go to <http://lwvlamv.info/bold-new-members-pass-motion-to-study-uc-and-csu/>)

It was great to get so much useful information and to see the process working, both on general business like budgets, and on topics of passionate interest, such as higher education.

—Marilyn Radisch, Second Vice President/Program

To read the Post Convention Summary, go to <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/upd2013/june/postconv.html>

Public Safety: Innovations in Law Enforcement

At our League's September 25 luncheon, Deputy Chief Steve Clark of the Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) informed us about predictive policing and Chief Deputy Jim Hart of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office (SCCSO) updated us on how the prison realignment program is working.

Deputy Chief Clark, a 27-year veteran of the SCPD, emphasized that predictive policing has nothing to do with crystal balls and is firmly rooted in science. Eschewing crystal balls, predictive policing takes social science, behavioral tendencies, and crime statistics and analyzes them with a computer program driven by mathematical formulas, which was devised by a company called PredPol, to generate a map that indicates where crime is likely to occur in the near future.



Focusing on areas where crime has recently occurred leaves law enforcement chasing yesterday's crimes but missing today's crimes. Clark pointed out that a city is a living, breathing organism, and that the "hot spots" fluctuate over time, moving from area to area in predictable patterns.

Deputy Chief Clark observed that Santa Cruz, unusual for a city its size due to unique features such as the Boardwalk, university, busy downtown district, and population that changes with the seasons, requires more resources and services than other similarly-sized cities. Unfortunately, the rising demand for resources can't be matched with an equal increase in resources to meet the demand, so in July 2011, Santa Cruz became the first city to use predictive policing as a tool to make the best possible use of the available resources.

Steve Clark, Deputy Chief SCPD

The maps generated by the PredPol program update four times a day and can focus on a specific type of crime, such as gang activities or gun violence. The maps put red boxes around areas of concern as small as 500 square feet to pinpoint where law enforcement should focus its resources. Clark stressed that the maps are only a tool to show officers where to look, and that the individual officer must bring their skills, abilities, and knowledge into the "box" with them and take what they see and apply it. Clark emphasized that he wanted officers to interact with residents and communicate safety practices with the neighbors in those hot spots; in addition to utilizing the computerized data from the car or office, officers will remain a positive and frequent presence when patrolling their neighborhoods.

The results have been decreases of 11% in burglary, 8% in robbery, and 7% in assaults. Arrests are up 56% and auto theft recovery is up 22%. In the two years since Santa Cruz first deployed predictive policing, it has been adopted by law enforcement agencies from Los Angeles to Stockholm. Deputy Chief Clark concluded that this leading edge technology has worked well to make our community a safer place.

Segueing into the second part of our program, SCCSO's Chief Deputy Hart apprised the group of the results of the shift of prisoners from state to county jails according to the provisions of a new California law aimed at reducing overcrowding in state prisons, which have been at 180% of capacity for 20 years. In June 2011, Hart was given a promotion, and was then told he had 30 days to come up with a plan for prison realignment, a daunting task in light of over 500 pages of legislation that changed the criminal justice system as we knew it.

Chief Deputy Hart noted that, despite perceptions due to high profile crimes, crime rates in Santa Cruz today are as low as they were in the 1960s and our community is safer.

The SCCSO spends more than \$30 million of its \$75 million budget on corrections; its four jail facilities contain a total of 448 beds that house a daily population of 500 inmates, and there are an additional 350 in custody alternatives. Of the department's 327 employees, 108 are correctional officers. Another 226 deputies provide

transportation for prisoners and court security. At any one time, seven deputies are on patrol duty to serve the county's 150,000 residents.

The main custody alternative, electronic monitoring, is accomplished with bracelets that send information about the detainee back to the SCCSO that can include location and blood alcohol levels. Those convicted of violent or serious crimes and sex offenders would not be eligible to be detained with electronic monitoring. The main crimes for which electronic monitoring is used are dealing or possession of drugs, possession of stolen property, misdemeanors, and embezzlement. The most violent offenders will always go to a state facility.

Sentence reduction is another part of prison realignment. For example, when a detainee has a four-year sentence, if they do well for their first year in jail, they will be evaluated for electronic monitoring. If they have no problems on electronic monitoring, they can be considered for early parole.



Jim Hart, Chief Deputy SCCSO

One aspect of prison realignment is that the average length of incarceration in the county jail system has increased from 30 days to 380. Some may serve as long as 12 years in the county system, which is tougher on facilities and inmates because the county jails were not designed for long stays. Medical and dental care can also be a costly problem, and when possible, those inmates who are severely ill are put into the electronic monitoring program.

The county receives four million dollars a year from the state to pay for staff to manage the electronic monitoring. Since the program started, only three detainees have managed to cut off their monitors, and all three were subsequently recaptured. Electronically monitored inmates who work pay a daily fee (based on a sliding scale, depending on their salary) for the monitor. The cost to house an inmate is \$78 per day. Electronic monitoring costs \$7 per day.

Hart finished with a discussion of recidivism. Hoping to reduce the number of those who reoffend, the SCCSO has invested state money in various rehabilitation and education programs. Unfortunately, substance abuse is the most common reason for recidivism, and there are too few facilities available to treat those who need it, and those who need it most often refuse it.

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

Keeping in touch with Santa Cruz Law enforcement

As part of the Santa Cruz Police Department's philosophy of being more responsive and transparent, the SCPD offers several innovative ways for citizens to engage with the department.

The Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD) offers one of the first mobile applications for law enforcement in the country. The application, available for [iPhones](#) and [Android phones](#), gives you access to the latest alerts, real-time crime maps, news, photos, videos, and crime information wherever you are.

The Santa Cruz Police Department's popular [Citizen Police Academy](#) offers city residents an inside look at aspects of law enforcement most have never seen. In a free ten-week course, participants learn how the SCPD operates and how it works with various judicial departments. Participants will also observe a Police K-9 demonstration, shoot police weapons, drive a police car in a controlled high-speed pursuit, and much more. A new course will be starting soon, so don't wait to sign up. For more information contact Sgt. Michael Harms at 420-5873 or mharms@cityofsantacruz.com or Officer Joe Hernandez at 420-5952 or jhernandez@cityofsantacruz.com

The SCPD "[Ride-Along](#)" program encourages better communication between the department and the community. Citizens age 14 and older can participate in one two-hour ride-along per year.

You can also keep up to date on SCPD activities through Deputy Chief Clark's [SCPD Blog](#), which showcases SCPDs most wanted and offers tips on how to avoid being a crime victim.

Membership Report

Thank you to Joyce Anderson, who hosted our very successful membership coffee on September 13, and to members who made time in their busy lives to come and share. Our next coffee will take place on October 1 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, and we plan to include new, experienced, and prospective members. We are likely to have one or more additional coffees as the need arises.

Please contact Barbara Lewis by email at bobbi44@gmail.com or telephone at (831)335-7816 if you are interested in attending a membership coffee, including what days are best. If you have a friend or acquaintance who might join the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, please share that information so we can broaden our base of support. I would encourage any members who have not yet renewed to do so without further delay.

—Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

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 per 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 _____

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President's Message

Dear Members,

A special thank you to League member Jack Dilles (former Santa Cruz City Financial Director) for volunteering to review the League's financial records, which he found complete and well-organized thanks to our Treasurer Marcia Minnihan. On behalf of the Board of Directors for the LWVSCC, we appreciate the dedication and efforts of both of you.



LWVSCC President Peggy Marketello (center) prepares to register voters at Ben Lomond Market with League members Lynn Houser (left) and Dorrie Kennedy (right).

August 6, marked the 48th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), and September 24th was National Voter Registration Day when over 280 Leagues from 43 states partnered with other organizations to register voters in America. Voter registration is the key to civic participation and the LWV has a good history of working diligently to get eligible voters registered in our country.

Locally, Voters Service Co-Chairs Sue Becker and Jan Karwin headed a great team to register voters on National Voter Registration Day at four locations in our county. Prior to the event, members of the team attended a training workshop with Inger Christenson, Program Coordinator for Voter Registration and Outreach at the County Elections Department. Kudos to our team!

Regarding the Voter Registration Act, remain aware and vigilant to the impacts and ramifications of the recent Supreme Court decision on Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder as the League, along with most Americans, strives to maintain equality and fairness in voting rights. The League's advocacy for the VRA at the national level recommends telling Congress to fix the VRA through letters, emails, and phone calls.

Sincerely,

Peggy Marketello, President

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