



# Santa Cruz VOTER

League of Women Voters® of Santa Cruz County

February 2013

Volume 47, Number 5

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### Calendar

Sunday, February 10, 2013  
 11:30—2 P.M.  
 Valentine Luncheon & Silent Auction  
 Hilton Scotts Valley  
 6001 La Madrona Drive, Scotts Valley

Tuesday, February 12, 2013  
 1-3 P.M.  
 LWVSCC Board Meeting  
 Santa Cruz County Bank  
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thursday, February 28  
 1--3 P.M.  
 I&R Consensus Meeting, Part Two  
 Home of Sandy Warren  
 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
 1-3 P.M.  
 LWVSCC Board Meeting  
 Santa Cruz County Bank  
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thursday, March 14  
 1—3 P.M.  
 State Program Planning  
 Home of Irene Thomas  
 159 Via Medici, Aptos 95003

## Annual Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction

### UCSC and Its Role in our Community: Opportunities and Challenges

*Featured speaker*  
 UCSC Chancellor  
 George Blumenthal  
 Sunday

**February 10**  
**11:30 A.M.—2 P.M.**

The Hilton Scotts Valley  
 6001 La Madrona Drive  
 Scotts Valley 95066  
 Open to the public.  
 Cost: \$30 per person  
 Includes admission  
 and buffet luncheon



*Prepaid reservations required by Tuesday, February 5, 2013*  
 Send checks payable to LWVSCC to:  
 Peggy Marketello, 117 Oak Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95065.

Our League looks forward to presenting George R. Blumenthal, 10th Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, as the featured speaker at our annual Valentine luncheon and silent auction fundraiser. Chancellor Blumenthal will update us on the state of the University and share his vision for its future (for more details on the Chancellor's talk, see our January 2013 VOTER).

Chancellor Blumenthal has spent much of his life gazing at the stars. He grew up in Milwaukee and earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in physics from UC San Diego. As an astrophysicist, Chancellor Blumenthal has delved into the structure of the universe and the role dark matter played in its formation and evolution. In 1972, Blumenthal began his academic career at UCSC teaching astrophysics.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Silent Auction Tips

*Here's more information about the silent auction to be held at our February 10 Valentine luncheon.*

This once-a-year silent auction event is a satisfying and fun way to raise funds for our local League. Your generosity helps us advocate for causes that support the League's positions, moderate candidates' forums, hold informational meetings, and distribute information for voters and the community.

We invite you to participate by donating a new or gently used item to be auctioned off. At [www.lwvsc.org/calendar](http://www.lwvsc.org/calendar) you can download and print out a bid sheet (one for each item donated) and fill it out in advance, or just fill one out at the auction. All you need is a name for the item, a brief description, and an estimated value (the starting bid is usually about half the estimated value).

Wondering what to bring for the silent auction? Here are a few ideas: candy, homemade baked goods, gift certificates, books, art, jewelry, handcrafted items, music, plants, flowers, candles, silk scarves, designer purses, knick-knacks, and gift baskets (wine, flavored vinegars, soaps, lotions).

Don't forget to bid for the perfect gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself. You'll enjoy browsing through the tables of handcrafted items and treasures to be bid on.

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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.

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During his tenure at UCSC, he co-authored two textbooks and wrote many articles on astrophysics, in addition to participating in research for NASA and the National Science Foundation and serving on many committees and councils for the University.

Since taking up the reins at UCSC in July of 2006, Chancellor Blumenthal continues to serve widely on governing boards in science, technology, and education. He has dedicated his efforts at UCSC to increasing access to the University and fostering a diverse population on campus. He also found time to raise two children with his wife, Kelly Weisberg, a lawyer, sociologist, and professor of law at Hastings College in San Francisco.

We hope you will join us at the at the Hilton Hotel in Scotts Valley, 6001 La Madrona Drive, on February 10<sup>th</sup> to learn more about Santa Cruz County's largest employer. You can also look forward to participating in our silent auction fundraiser, either by bidding on a choice item or bringing one to donate (for more information about the auction, see sidebar). The event is open to the public, so don't forget to invite a friend to attend with you. You can also download a flyer for the event by clicking on the link on our calendar page at [www.lwvsc.org](http://www.lwvsc.org). Your check for \$30 per person includes admission and buffet lunch (see below for menu details). Make the check payable to LWVSCC and mail it to Peggy Marketello at 117 Oak Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95065. We must receive your reservation by Tuesday, February 5, 2013. If you have any questions, contact Peggy at 423-0782 or [pm4art@aol.com](mailto:pm4art@aol.com)

### *Annual Valentine Luncheon Buffet Menu*

- ❖ *Italian Garden Pasta Salad  
with Shaved Parmesan*
- ❖ *Classic Caesar Salad*
- Panini on Focaccia to Include:*
  - ❖ *Grilled Vegetable with  
Sundried Tomato and Pesto Spread*
  - ❖ *Smoked Turkey and Provolone with  
Roasted Garlic Aioli*
  - ❖ *Chef's Brownies*
  - ❖ *Water and Iced Tea Service*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Initiative and Referendum Study Consensus Meeting, Part Two

Thursday, February 28, 2013

1—3 P.M.

150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz

Join LWVSCC at 1:00 P.M., Thursday, February 28, at Sandy Warren's home, 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, for our second and final meeting of the Initiative and Referendum study as we discuss and come to consensus on the remaining five study questions. We encourage all LWVSCC members to attend, even those who were unable to attend the first meeting.

At this meeting we will consider study questions six, eleven, twelve, thirteen, and fourteen. Question six asks us to evaluate the importance of various aspects of the development and qualification processes, including limits on length, simplification of wording, public support, funding, sunset clauses, and signature gathering. Question eleven considers what abilities the state legislature should have to make changes to voter-enacted statutes and constitutional amendments. Question twelve concerns the application of several principals in determining who should have a voice in the process of drafting and finalizing a ballot measure. In question thirteen we may add any changes not covered in the questions. The final question asks if the initiative and referendum options should be retained in California's democratic governance.

We encourage those who have not already done so to review the study guide: *Initiative and Referendum in California: A Legacy Lost?* You can access the study guide and the complete list of consensus questions, which includes the League's current position, at [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org). Click on the Initiative and Referendum Study link at the top of the page, then scroll down to the *Study Materials* section. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Warren at (831) 426-9389 or [sandra333warren@gmail.com](mailto:sandra333warren@gmail.com)

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## State Program Planning in March

Who decides what topics our state League will study, what positions need updating, and what new positions need to be considered? You do!. You can review California League positions online.

Lend your voice to our discussion of State League positions on Thursday March 14 from 1 to 3 P.M. at the home of our LWVSCC president, Irene Thomas, 159 Via Medici, Aptos.

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## LWV of California Takes Action

Learn more about the following topics on the LWVC web page [ca.lwv.org](http://ca.lwv.org):

✓LWVC responded with concerns regarding Governor Brown's proposed budget and weighed in in favor of his proposal for a weighted student formula, a streamlined system based on student characteristics and needs aimed at encouraging local innovation and addressing historic inequities.

✓In a letter to the chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, LWVC president Jennifer Waggoner used League positions to address inadequacies in the Final Draft Delta Plan and its evaluation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's proposal for a dual tunnel system to move water from the north end of the delta to the south.

✓Would changes to California's landmark 1970 California Environmental Quality Act improve the law or degrade its power? LWVC president Waggoner stepped into this conversation in the Sacramento Bee with a letter to the editor expressing the League's position that citizen participation in land-use decisions should not be undermined.

## President's Message

*Dear Fellow LWVSCC Members,*

We are looking forward to an active February, but, unfortunately, I will not be able to share with you our annual luncheon and silent auction on February 10th. As I have previously mentioned, I am looking forward to traveling to Vietnam to visit my son (a college administrator in Ho Chi Minh City) and his family.



Even though I regret not being able to attend, I urge all of you to put the event on the top of your agenda. It's always fun, interesting, and a good chance to meet again with fellow members. I am excited that we have the good fortune to present UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal as our distinguished guest. Don't forget to bring something for the silent auction! As you bid on a favorite item, remember that this is our main fundraiser of the year, and your generous support helps LWVSCC thrive.

I will return in time to attend the second of our Initiative and Referendum study meetings on February 28. Studies like this are the heart and soul of the League; they provide a way for the League to remain current in our positions and give us the ability to take action on issues of importance to our members.

I frequently receive leaders' updates from national League President, Elizabeth MacNamara. She is an extraordinary, capable, energetic lady. There's no way I can summarize all of the information contained in her letters, but I do recommend you take a look at the new League Forums page. League Forums give you an opportunity to interact with fellow League members across the country on specific topics. Try going to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), then click on the LOGIN link on the red bar at the top (if you haven't already registered, you will be able to do so on the login page). Once you have logged in as a member, you can access the forums by clicking on the Forums link on the left side of the screen.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,  
*Irene Thomas, President*