



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

February 2015 *Celebrating 50 Years of Voter Education in Santa Cruz County* Volume 49, Number 6

In this Issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| February Luncheon | 1 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Membership Report..... | 2 |
| Legislative Interviews | 3 |
| International Women's Day..... | 3 |
| Higher Education Study | 3 |
| Water: Always an Issue..... | 3 |
| Drug and Alcohol Forum Plans.... | 4 |
| State Convention in May..... | 4 |

LWVSCC invites you to attend our

50th Anniversary Celebration

Featuring

Keynote Speaker:
The Honorable John Laird
State Secretary
of Natural Resources
Sunday, February 22, 2015

Noon-2 p.m.

Seacliff Inn

7500 Old Dominion Court | Aptos, CA 95003

Cost: \$30 per person / RSVP by Thursday, February 12

Send check payable to LWVSCC for \$30/person to: PO Box 1745 Capitola, CA 95010
Please indicate choice of entrée: Celestino Salmon, Cheese Tortellini, or Chicken Seacliff



Calendar

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

1-3 p.m.

LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Forum Planning Committee
See article for details.

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Noon-2 p.m.

50th Anniversary Celebration
Seacliff Inn
7500 Old Dominion Court
Aptos, CA 95003
RSVP by Thursday, February 12
See article for details.

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

1-3 p.m.

Local Program Planning
Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic Street
Santa Cruz, 95060

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

1-3 p.m.

LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Saturday, June 6, 2015

LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Save the date; details coming soon.

LWVSCC proudly presents California Secretary for Natural Resources, the Honorable John Laird as the keynote speaker at our 50th Anniversary Celebration on February 22. Laird, who received his current appointment by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011, will inform us about some of the pressing issues concerning water in California as well as other priorities under his administration.

After graduating with honors in politics from University of California, Santa Cruz in 1972, Laird served on the staff of U.S. Representative Jerome Waldie, then as budget analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrator. Laird spent nine years on the Santa Cruz City Council, including two terms as mayor. His service also includes work on the boards of many local and regional agencies as well as serving as the executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Elected to represent the 27th district in the California Assembly in 2002, he served the maximum three terms, authoring 82 bills that were signed into law. Laird's career in public service spans 40 years, 23 of them as an elected official.

In his current position, Laird's top priorities include climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability.

For the last year water issues at the state level have been in the forefront: the driest three years in recorded state history, a new state water action plan, a huge drought package, the first state groundwater monitoring law, and a bipartisan water bond that passed with two thirds of the vote. Resources Secretary John Laird will lay it all out in his February 22 talk.

Make your reservation today to help us celebrate LWVSCC's 50 years of serving local voters. Help spread the word with our event flyer (download at lwvsc.org/calendar). For more information, contact Dottie Fry at (831) 688-9234, email league@lwvsc.org, or visit our website at lwvsc.org

Membership Report

In January, Paul Fleischman and his wife, Patty Brown, joined our League of Women Voters as household members and included a generous donation with their membership. Paul tells us, "I'm a writer of books for children and young adults who recently moved to Santa Cruz from Aromas. I'm especially interested in environmental issues and increasing voter turnout."

In the January VOTER, the Membership Report included a profile of Judi Orbach. Judi's husband, Mike Orbach, has now joined the League as part of a household membership! Last June Mike, a cultural anthropologist, retired from the Duke University Marine Laboratory. At Duke, Mike was Professor of Marine Affairs and Policy from 1993-2014 and director of the lab from 1998 to 2006. Mike specializes in the application of social and policy sciences to coastal and marine issues, and has worked around the world on this topic. Now an emeritus professor at Duke, he is once again affiliated with the Institute of Marine Sciences at UCSC (where he was associate director from 1979-82) and the Center for Ocean Solutions at Stanford. Mike looks forward to assisting the League on environmental and conservation issues, especially those involving coasts and oceans.

We welcome all our new household members, Paul Fleischman, Patty Brown, and Mike Orbach, to our League.

—Barbara Lewis,
First Vice President/Membership

President's Message

Has spring arrived? One would think so, considering the buds developing. While we still need those raindrops falling, it is hard not to enjoy the warmth of what seems like late spring weather.

This month I've been busy creating a poster for the exhibit at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (February 13 to 15) put on by Women in Philanthropy and United Way. This exhibit celebrates and brings together women's groups that work for and serve their communities. (More at www.unitedwaysc.org.)

Passing through a lovely front garden filled with creative clay creatures made by Sue Becker, in January I attended a meeting at her home with our energized Drug and Alcohol Disorder Forum Committee: Pam Newbury, Chair, Sue Becker, Nancy Litvak, and new member Judi Orbach. Judi and Pam subsequently met with Bill Manov, our county's Alcohol and Drug Program administrator, to begin plans for our May event to educate the community on this subject.

Our Voter Service co-chairs, Sue Becker and Dottie Fry, received compliments for their Pros and Cons presentation to the United Methodist Women's group last fall. Charlotte Clayton thanked them for "... a wonderful presentation. It was informative and interesting. I think everyone better understood the issues... You are a vital group and do an important and necessary service!" On behalf of the League, kudos to Dottie and Sue.

Five members (Judy Brock, Pam Newbury, Marcia Minnihan, Judi Orbach and I,) met at Judy Brock's home for a session on State Program Planning to consider our recommendations to the LWVC for study, education and advocacy; results will be presented to the Board at our next meeting. Thank you, Judy, for hosting at your home, and providing drinks and refreshments for us.

A reminder to all about attending our 50th anniversary luncheon at the Seacliff Inn featuring the California Secretary of Natural Resources, our hometown John Laird. Learn more about the State Water Action Plan which includes all of the following important issues of water (now in a 3-year drought period): making current sources reliable, making water conservation a way of life, doing more recycling, storm-water capturing, enhancing wetlands and watersheds, and managing ground water and increasing its storage. Make your reservation today to come celebrate our 50 years of education and advocacy (see page 1 for details).

This issue of the VOTER offers several opportunities for being active in the League, from interviewing your elected officials to serving on a committee. I urge you to consider taking some part in one of these ventures. Whatever amount of time you can spare is welcome, even if it's just a few hours. Many hands make light work!

Stay well, be safe, do your rain dance, be happy, and enjoy this beautiful place.

—Peggy Walker Marketello, President LWVSCC



Legislative Interviews

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County will partner with the San Jose/Santa Clara League to conduct annual legislative interviews with State Senator Bill Monning and Assemblymember Mark Stone during the months of February and March. When we interview these representatives, we will ask state-level questions posed by the state League plus a few questions of particular local interest. If you have interest in attending one or both interviews, or wish to submit a question of local interest to the interview team, please contact us at league@lwvsc.org or (831) 426-VOTE (8683). This is a great opportunity to meet your state legislative representatives and get to know them in person.

International Women's Day

On Saturday March 7, 2015 the Santa Cruz Chapters of the United Nations Association and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom celebrate International Women's Day from noon to 3 p.m. at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, with their International soup kitchen where \$7 buys you all the soup and bread you want (students \$3). The program, "100 years of WILPF," begins at 1 p.m. For more information call 831-426-3101.

Higher Education Study Committee

With our local program planning coming up in March (see calendar for details), we will be deciding the focus for our League's local programs for the 2015/16 year. At that meeting we will decide if LWVSCC will participate in the League's statewide Higher Education Study. Before our League can make that decision, we need to have an interested group of members willing to work on the committee for the study.

In order to support proposing the study as a topic for local program planning, we need a chair for the committee and a few members willing to work on it by mid-February. This spring, our local committee would begin to evaluate articles on the topic from the state committee to prepare for receiving the study guide in August 2015. The committee will also play a key role in educating our local League members and holding consensus meetings in March of 2016.

The study will examine access to quality public higher education in California, including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to success. Public Higher Education in California is at a crossroads. Almost daily, news articles discuss public higher education and the need for reform. Unfortunately, because LWVC does not have a position on public higher education in California that includes the CSU and UC systems, the League cannot comment on or advocate for or against any legislation. This study was proposed and approved in order to remedy this situation and in recognition of the fact that education is the bedrock upon which democracy is built and sustained.

If you are interested in helping our League participate in this study of higher education and maintain its strong voice for advocacy in California, please e-mail us by February 20 at league@lwvsc.org. For more information: lwvc.org/study/education-0

Water: Always an Issue in California

The LWVC Water Committee monitors current issues and recommends LWVC action concerning this essential, but controversial, element of life and politics in our state. The League remained neutral on Proposition 1, the water bond on the November ballot. Although we could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by the measure, we had serious concerns about provisions emphasizing additional surface storage of water and the continuous appropriation of funds to the California Water Commission (CWC) for allocation to storage projects. With the passage of Prop 1, the LWVC has submitted recommendations to the CWC as it considers how to evaluate the public benefits of water storage proposals. To become better informed about water in California, read the LWVC Water Committee's January 2015 update. lwvc.org/issues/california-water-resources.

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 _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

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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.

Responding to Drug and Alcohol Disorders in Our Community: An Educational Forum

This coming May, LWVSCC will present a community event to educate our members and the community about how treatment for substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders can benefit both individuals and the community as a whole. Currently in the early planning stages, the forum will feature a moderated panel of speakers who will answer questions from the League and the community about this issue.

The planning committee for this event has met once in January. If you would like to attend our second meeting, planned for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, please contact committee chair Pam Newbury (831-423-6904 or e-mail pknewbury@earthlink.net) for details. If you would like to help but have limited time, consider helping out on the evening of the event. Look for more details on this event soon.

State League Convention in May

Registration is now open for the 65th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California, which will take place on May 15–17 2015 in San Diego.

Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts.

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work! Our theme is “Let the Sun Shine In!”

If you plan to attend the convention, please let the LWVSCC board know by e-mail to league@lwvsc.org. For more information about the convention, go to lwvc.org/announcement/2015/jan/first-call-convention