



FEBRUARY 2010

# **Santa Cruz Voter**

**League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County**

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 4

## **Celebrate With The League**

**Join the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters at "Hats Off to the League" in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the National League of Women Voters on Saturday, February 27, 2010, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 3400 Clares, Capitola.**

Cynthia Mathews, Santa Cruz City Council Member and former mayor, will speak on "The Woman Who Marched with the Suffragists."

Wear a hat for this festive occasion and be eligible to enter a drawing for a free gift. The program will include both personal stories and information about the suffragists. Members and guests will receive a copy of "The League Through The Ages". We'll sing songs from "Hurrah for Woman Suffrage". The gala concludes with a presentation of our exciting new local League website.

**RSVP to 831/426-VOTE (8683) Before February 20!**

Cost is \$20 per person. Make checks to LWVSCC.

Menu choices are: Salad Bar or French Dip with Fresh Coleslaw or Chicken Caesar Salad. Cornbread and your choice of fountain drinks, iced tea or coffee plus Apple, Chocolate Cream or Lemon Meringue Pie are included.

## **Local League Website Launched**

I'm pleased to announce that the LWVSCC's new website, <http://lwvsc.org>, is now available for both members and the community. Our online calendar will list upcoming League sponsored meetings that are open to the public, such as our traditional pros and cons of ballot measures and forums with guest speakers on timely governmental issues. Website visitors will find information on how to be actively involved in the political process, as well as League history, its stands on issues and how to join us.

Our local League newsletter, *Santa Cruz Voter*, will be posted on the website in living color. Reading the online version of our newsletter will save our League the cost of both postage and printing, not to mention sparing a few carbon absorbing trees. Of course, League members who do not have internet access will continue to receive the *Voter* via first class mail.

Visit <http://lwvsc.org>. Be sure to bookmark it and to share it with friends.

Jan Karwin, Webmaster

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Come help us celebrate 90 years of League of Women Voters! What an achievement! We are still going strong. Let's renew our commitment to continuing our great work.

Before women got the right to vote, many women suffered great personal humiliation while standing up for our rights. Yet they continued in order to achieve what was appropriate and right. The League was formed to insure that the public was informed about the issues and could vote in an intelligent manner. We continue that tradition today.

Come on Feb. 27 to be inspired by the stories, energized to do what you can to make sure voters are informed, and committed to voting on Election Day. Any level of commitment will make you feel productive in the League mission.

Ann Wise, President

## LEAGUE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

In 1920, after a 72 year struggle, passage of the 19th amendment appeared to be imminent, and members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters, the organization to educate the newly franchised women to effectively use the vote.

LWV founder Carrie Chapman Catt urged the new organization to "finish the fight" and to work to end all discrimination against women. Initially the LWV was primarily concerned with the status and rights of women and women's issues, but interests were gradually expanded to include issues affecting men as well as women. Today, the LWV works to effect change on a wide variety of issues in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, National Resources and Social Policy.

Many men supported the suffragists in the early days of the fight to pass the 19th Amendment, and men have continued to be supportive of the LWV over the years. In 1973, the LWV invited men to join the organization, and their numbers continue to increase. As the organization celebrates its 90th anniversary, it has much to look back upon, but the work is not yet complete. The LWV continues to work towards meaningful citizen participation in the government processes. "For nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective and truly representative." said League of Women Voters national president, Mary G. Wilson. "Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago.

"The Right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

US Constitution, Nineteenth Amendment

## LWVSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President (831)338-3875	Ann Wise
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Dues Secretary (831)459-8890	Ruthann Amsel
League Phone	Shirley Riskin

League Phone: **(831) 426-VOTE**

## Join the League of Women Voters

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  
\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible. To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVSCC Education Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## VOTERS SERVICE

Election activity help is needed for ballot measure talks and candidate forums. Please call Morgan Rankin, Voters Service Chair, at 426-6412 to be involved in this exciting part of League. Assistance is needed in April and May for the June 8 election and then again in September and October prior to the November 2 election.

The Santa Cruz Voter is published regularly by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County.

Editor: Eloise Graham

Layout: Kathy Van Horn

**(831) 426-VOTE** <http://www.lwvsc.org>

## Special Thanks

Kudos to Evy Brown and April Bartal for their outstanding work on our successful Holiday Membership Celebration in December. Because of their tireless efforts, members and guests enjoyed an informative, delicious and delightful event.

Thank you to Barbara Lewis for her knowledgeable presentation at the January National Program Planning meeting. Under her leadership, members shared in the stimulating discussion.

Much appreciation is due to Jan Karwin whose research, skill, and perseverance brought our league into the electronic age. Her hours of dedication and attention to detail resulted in a superior website for LWVSCC.

## National Program Planning Results

In an unexpectedly lively discussion, Santa Cruz League Members and guests effectively demonstrated how the League's grass roots planning works. Barbara Lewis and Ann Wise each presented a proposed study submitted to our local League from other local Leagues. A proposed study on the role of the Federal Government in Education generated discussion and interest. Another suggested study on a Federal Department of Peace seemed overly broad.

Jan Karwin, of our own organization, then proposed two separate and very interesting studies. The first, Regulation of Financial Institutions, drew many questions and much enthusiasm from the group. The second, Why Do Corporations Have More Rights Than People?, was also the basis of a good discussion. However, during consensus, many of our members were behind the first suggestion. The proposed study on the role of the Federal Government in Education was accepted as an alternate choice.

Jan agreed to form a committee to submit the proposal of a study on the Regulation of Financial Institutions to other local Leagues for their support in the process of deciding the next national study. Watch for further developments of this proposed study.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

Wed., Feb. 10, 1-3 PM

League Board Meeting  
Home of Sandy Warren  
150 Scenic St., Santa Cruz 95060

Sat., Feb. 27, 11:30 AM-2 PM

"Hats Off to the League"  
90th Anniversary Celebration  
Marie Callender's Restaurant  
3400 Clares, Capitola 95010

#### MARCH

Wed., Mar.10, 1-3 PM

League Board Meeting  
Santa Cruz County Bank  
720 Front St., Santa Cruz 95060

Thurs., Mar.25 1-3 PM

How Will We Fund Alternative Transportation?  
Fred Keeley, Santa Cruz County Treasurer  
Santa Cruz Central Branch Library  
Upstairs meeting room  
224 Church St, Santa Cruz 95060

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.