



# Santa Cruz VOTER

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

June/July 2012

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## 47th Annual Meeting wrap-up

Our local League held its 47th Annual Meeting at Bruno's Barbecue in Kings Village Shopping Center on June 2. After a buffet lunch, the meeting was called to order by outgoing President Jan Karwin. The members voted on and approved changes to our local bylaws, the proposed budget for the new fiscal year, and the recommended program for next year. The subjects from which the upcoming year's programs will be chosen include the November ballot measures, emergency preparedness, transportation, water issues, the state of the university, LAFCO, and a follow up on healthcare.

Stephanie Harlan, the nominating committee chair, introduced the nominees for the new board of directors. The slate of officers included Irene Thomas, President; Peggy Marketello, 1st Vice President/Programs Coordinator; Barbara Lewis, 2nd Vice President/Membership/National Program; Kathy Van Horn, Secretary; Marcia Minnihan, Treasurer.

Directors nominated were Pam Newbury, Newsletter Editor—Santa Cruz VOTER; Joyce Anderson, Publicity Co-Chair—Television Media; Sandy Warren, State Program; Morgan Rankin, Voters Service Co-Chair; Jan Karwin, Water Resources; Judy Brock, Webmaster. Stephanie Harlan, Joyce Aoyagi, and Ann Wise were proposed members for next year's Nomination Committee.

A motion to approve the slate of nominees was approved by the members.

Off-board positions in the coming year include Shirley Riskin as League Telephone Receptionist, Stephanie Harlan as Publicity Co-Chair—Print/Radio Media, Eve Roberson as Voters Service Co-Chair, and Laura Grossman as manager of the membership database.

The meeting closed with the presentation of a gift to Jan Karwin in appreciation for all she has done the last two years.

—Kathy Van Horn, Secretary

## Calendar

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

1-3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

## Initiative and referendum study

Last year the League of Women Voters of California decided to study California's initiative and referendum process in order to update their position. League member Sandy Warren is heading a local committee for this study that will begin meeting in August.

League members interested in joining the committee should contact Sandy Warren at (831)426-9389 or [sandra333warren@gmail.com](mailto:sandra333warren@gmail.com)

## News Briefs

✓ **Dues are due in July**, so we will be sending out dues notices soon. If you would like to send them in early, you may do so by sending a check payable to LWVSCC to Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Family memberships are \$100, Single memberships are \$65, and student memberships are \$30. Dues are not tax deductible. If you have had a change of address or a new e-mail address, please contact Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair at 831-335-7816 or by e-mail: [bobbi44@gmail.com](mailto:bobbi44@gmail.com)

✓ **Fracking notification bill defeated.** On May 31 the California Senate voted down SB 1054, which would have required oil and gas operators to notify surrounding property owners before they performed hydraulic fracturing on their wells. Jennifer Waggoner signed a joint letter of support for the bill on behalf of the LWV of California. Supporters said it would have given property owners a chance to have their wells tested in advance of drilling for a baseline measurement and to monitor water quality. Opponents said the regulation was overkill and would have been difficult to comply with.

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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.

## Tax status considered

Should our local League become a 501(c)(3)? The state League (LWVC) is encouraging local Leagues to consider changing their nonprofit tax status from tax exempt 501(c)(4) to tax deductible 501(c)(3). At least 26 local California Leagues have done so with the assistance of the state League. Our local League Board endorsed forming a committee to evaluate the advantages and possible disadvantages of making this change to our League's tax status. If you are interested in participating on this tax status committee, please let me know.

—*Jan Karwin*

[jan@karwin.com](mailto:jan@karwin.com) (831) 460-1714.

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## Membership report

I would like to welcome two new members to our membership: Jan Beautz, who served as District 1 Supervisor for our county from 1988-2008, and Rama Khalsa, Ph. D., the recently retired director of the county's Health Services Agency and speaker at our April event.

Many thanks to Joyce Anderson for hosting the March and May new member coffees.

Barbara Lewis—Membership Vice President

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## California RNs to host health screenings in Santa Cruz

On the heels of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act, nurses, physicians, and healthcare activists will visit Santa Cruz as part of a [three-week tour](#) of California cities as a reminder that the healthcare crisis continues to worsen and genuine and comprehensive reform is still needed.

The tour bus arrives in Santa Cruz on Thursday, July 5 and will offer free basic health screenings at the Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, from 3-6 P.M., followed by a town hall meeting from 6:30-8 P.M. where community members will be invited to tell their healthcare stories.

The focus of the event is a call to step up the drive for guaranteed, universal, cost-effective health reform once and for all by expanding and updating Medicare to cover everyone regardless of age

## LWVUS adopts Education position

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at its March 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country that participated in the federal role in public education study, which included our local League.

The position states that "the League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right." The full position, available online, addresses many aspects of the federal role in education in depth. The position recognizes the government's role in achieving universal change while also recognizing that the primary responsibility for public education resides with the states, and that the basic federal role in funding education should be to achieve equity. The League believes that the federal government should fund any mandated programs and that federal funds for early learning should go first to children of poverty and/or those with special needs.

The LWVUS thanked the many local and state Leagues and Inter-League Organizations that held meetings, involved their communities, and worked to reach consensus on this critical issue of importance to all Americans.

To read the complete position on line, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/federal-role-public-education-position>

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Editor's Note: The next issue of the VOTER will arrive at the end of August.

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 Two members in a household

\_\_\_\_ \$30 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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## President's Message

I am honored and humbled by my appointment as your president. I hope that I can live up to the high standards set by my predecessors. I have been asked to provide a thumbnail biography. I have lived in California all my life, including San Francisco, Stockton, Sacramento, Bakersfield and Aptos.

I have been a widow for almost 15 years now. I have 3 children, Jerry, who is a mathematics professor at Western Wyoming College; Stephen, who is an administrator at an English language college in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; and Carol, who is a computer technician in Sacramento. I am an alumna of San Jose State with a major in Education, and I taught primary school for a few years before my children were born.

I joined the League in the early 1970's, when I was living in Bakersfield, and I served a term as their president. In 1978, while I was president, I attended a League convention in Cincinnati. I don't recall what issues we studied, but I was very impressed by the way the convention was organized. They had an agenda, which was adhered to almost to the minute, every delegate was given an opportunity speak regarding each agenda item as it was introduced, we were able to reach a consensus on each item, and we adjourned exactly on time.

The League definitely knows how to run a convention, and that ability was again demonstrated to me at the 2012 convention in Washington, D.C., which I attended in early June as the only delegate from LWVSCC. There were 795 attendees, 641 of whom were delegates, representing 47 states and 2 territories. I was impressed with the many interesting speakers, including Elizabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President; Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General; and the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Washington, D.C. Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Videos of the speakers can be viewed [online](#).

A number of items were recommended for study, including Agriculture, Campaign Finance Reform, and Corporate Personhood. We also concurred in a sentencing policy provision which had already been adopted by the D.C. League, which believes that other alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime and opposing mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders. Read more convention news at the [LWVUS website](#).

We were presented with a proposed copy of the 2012-2014 budget and authorized an increase of \$1.00 in the per-member payment. We also elected new officers and nominating committee members. All-in-all, a very full four and a half days.

—*Irene Thomas, President*