



Santa Cruz Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

Friday, December 11, 2009
5:30-7:30 PM

Museum of Art and History at The McPherson Center
705 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

You are cordially invited to attend the festive, informative and friendly Holiday Membership Celebration. **Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ellen Pirie** will be the featured speaker, discussing all you wanted to know about Local Election Issues, County Fiscal Matters and Local Effects of the Economic Stimulus Package Funding.

A wonderful selection of hors d'oeuvres and wines will be available. Members, their guests, friends and family are invited to be part of this delightful evening.

Please R.S.V.P. to the evite you received or call 831/426-VOTE (8683) for reservations. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Send checks made out to LWVSCC to PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010 by December 4.

Need a ride, or can you give a ride to this event? Please call 426-VOTE to car pool.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!

Evelynn Brown
Public Relations Chair & Program Co-Chair

2009 HUMAN RIGHTS FAIR

Saturday, December 5, 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, 95060

Our Local League will be participating in this exciting event along with numerous organizations that educate and advocate human rights through out the world. We'll be registering voters and promoting League membership. This is a real fair with art, music, food, speakers and informational tables.

Other weekend events celebrating Human Rights include Friday night, Dec. 4, 7:30 PM performances by local community members at the Broadway Playhouse (Santa Cruz Art League) 526 Broadway, SC and a Sunday, Dec. 6, 1:00-5:00 PM Human Rights Fair in Watsonville at the United Methodist Church, 229 Stanford Street.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Holidays are upon us. As part of your Holiday Festivities, please come to the LWV Holiday Membership Celebration on Dec. 11 at the Museum of Art and History. You should have received your Evite by now. This will be an opportunity to meet our new members and reconnect with our long standing members. It will be an opportunity to share with each other about why we are committed to the League of Women Voters.

I hope you will find the Holidays refreshing so when January rolls around, you will be ready to recommit to League.

National Program Planning is your opportunity to exercise Grassroots influence on what the National League takes on for Study and Advocacy. So start thinking about how you think the League should position itself to be relevant on the issues in the coming years.

Attend the January Program Planning meeting and prepare for an invigorating discussion. We all have points of view to offer. Let yours be heard.

Ann Wise
President

LWVSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President (831)338-3875	Ann Wise
VP Administration & Voter Editor (831)426-4526	Eloise Graham
VP Communications (831)460-1714	Jan Karwin
Secretary (831)426-8291	Kathy Van Horn
Treasurer (831)426-9389	Sandy Warren
Membership (831)475-9442	Laura Grossman
Program Co-Chair (831)335-7816	Barbara Lewis
Public Relations Chair & Program Co-Chair	Evelynn Brown
Voter Services (831)426-6412	Morgan Rankin
Director At Large (831)457-9126	April Bartal
Off Board	
Dues Secretary (831)459-8890	RuthannAmsel
League Phone: (831) 426-VOTE	

2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

What brought you to League? Was it Voter Service? Information on ballot measures? Informational and fun events such as Lunch With the League?

We all know how powerful the League can be in impacting our personal lives, how important it can be to strengthening our leadership skills, and how vital it is in making a genuine difference in our communities on the issues we care about. It is with that spirit and pride, that you are encouraged to join the Nominating Committee to offer the opportunities for leadership service to candidates for next year's Board position.

Contact Morgan Rankin at 426-6412 to find out more about what it means to be on the very important Nominating Committee. You can also talk to Morgan about serving on our vital local League Board.

NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

January 26, 2010, Tuesday, 1-3 PM
Home of Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic St., Santa Cruz
RSVP to 426-VOTE

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization. League members are encouraged to attend the January meeting if possible, or, if unable to attend, to submit an idea for a new study to Barbara Lewis at 335-7816 or bobbi44@gmail.com before the meeting.

This year, the directions in the Leader's Guide are different from previous years: "Local and state Leagues and ILO's are only asked to propose one new study, one review or one concurrence, or to make no recommendation. Leagues are no longer being asked to adopt existing program although convention delegates will continue to do so." To prepare for the meeting, please review "Impact on Issues", 2008-2010, which is available on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org. Eloise Graham has some additional copies of "Impact on Issues", which are available for eight dollars by contacting her at 426-4526.

So far, a proposed 2009-2011 study of the role of the federal government in public education has been received. This will be reviewed at our program planning meeting as well as any other proposals for the decision of our members. We will also review what is involved in a national study. We hope you can participate.

Barbara Lewis, Program CoChair

WANTED: BIRTHDAY GALA ORGANIZERS

Interested League of Women Voters members are encouraged to contact Barbara Lewis at 335-7816 or bobbi44@gmail.com to help plan the celebration for the 90th birthday of the national League in February. We will be deciding on the place, time, and program for the celebration soon, and your help would be appreciated. This will be a fun and festive event!

LOCAL LEAGUE HISTORY

As the League of Women Voters nationwide prepares to celebrate the 90th anniversary, our members take pride in our local history and achievements. Morgan Rankin will be coordinating a history of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County.

If you have local League memorabilia tucked in your closet or have a story about our early days, please contact Morgan at 426-6412.

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A hearty welcome to new league members Ken Newbury, Rebecca Connolly, Maria Nesheim, John and Margaret Gallagher, Mary Kate Mooser Lezin and Peggy Marketello. We welcome back renewing members Pam Kangas and Carol Wirth. Because the Gallaghers, Mary Kate Mooser Lezin and Peggy Marketello's names did not appear on the recent membership list mailed to everyone, please add them to your list.

As a reminder, the membership list is for League use only, so please, do not share with other groups.

In order to strengthen our League efforts in the community it is up to all of us to encourage membership growth. Offer to bring along a friend to a LWV event. Copy and pass along our VOTER to someone who may be interested. Even if you can't attend our meetings, learn what League is doing and talk about it with others. Call or email me if you know someone who would like LWV membership information.

Laura Grossman.
475-9442 or laurag@baymoon.com

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 LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

By now you should have received your 2009/2010 Membership list to put in your Membership Handbook. Please call 426-Vote or Morgan Rankin at 426-6412 if you did not get one. Of course, this list is for the exclusive use of our members, but if you would prefer that some of your information not be included in future lists, please let us know.

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

Editor: Eloise Graham
krze4kats@sbcglobal.net

Layout: Kathy Van Horn

(831) 426-VOTE

California Fair Elections Act Meeting

Former California State Assembly member Sally Lieber and Carol Cross, a campaign worker for the California Fair Elections Act (see photo), were the guest speakers at a public meeting on November 17, 2009, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.



The California Fair Elections Act (CFEA) is a measure put on the June 2010 ballot by the legislature and governor to create a pilot project providing voluntary public financing for candidates running for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018. Our former Assembly member John Laird was one of several co-authors of the measure.

As stated at the meeting, the Secretary of State makes an ideal test for public funding at little cost and will show how it will work for statewide elections in California. It will assure voters that the elected official guarding the integrity of elections has no need to raise private campaign contributions. CFEA is patterned after the successful Clean Money systems now working in Arizona, Maine and Connecticut, but adapted for California.

To learn more about the measure, visit the California Clean Money Campaign website at http://www.caclean.org/progress/cfea_details.php

WHEN'S THE NEXT ELECTION?

Have you already had questions from your friends and co-workers about future elections? What propositions will be on the next ballot? Are you still registered if you recently moved?

The next regularly scheduled state-wide election California is **June 8, 2010**. It is the primary election for California executive offices and state and federal legislative offices. Statewide propositions will also appear on the ballot, as local county and city offices and ballot issues.

Read the February/March 2010 Voter and check with SmartVoter.com later this spring for more information on ballot measures. The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County will be holding candidates' forums and presenting the Pro's and Con's of ballot issues in an unbiased way.

We'll also be actively working to support some of the ballot propositions and are looking for your help in doing this.

You must be registered to vote 15 days before the election in order to vote on June 8, 2010. And, you must reregister if you have a change of address.

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Members and guests who attended the highly successful series, Lunch With The League, had the opportunity to learn from exciting speakers. In November, Zabrae Valentine, Deputy Director of California Forward, asserted that politics as usual won't solve our problems. The nonprofit has created a plan that puts community interests before special interests, protects funding for local services and provides a strong preference for government that's closer to the people. The plan includes the Best Practices Budget Accountability Act: A Budget that Applies Lessons Learned and the Community Funding Protection and Accountability Act: Government Closer to the People. See www.cafwd-action.org for more information. Trudy Schafer, Senior Director of Program for the League of Women Voters of California, enthralled attendees in October as she addressed the Voters FIRST Act, California's new law for drawing boundary lines for State Assembly, State Senate and State Board of Equalization districts. Learn more at the California State Auditor's web page at www.bsa.ca.gov/redistricting or the League of Women Voters of California at www.lwvc.org. Theresa Rouse, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, spoke in September on the reality of education in our county. Refer to www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/ for more on our schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

Sat., Dec. 5, 11:30 am – 6:00 pm

Human Rights Fair

Louden Nelson Community Center
301 Center St. Santa Cruz 95060

Wed., Dec. 9, 1 – 3 pm

League Board Meeting

Santa Cruz Community Bank
720 Front St. Santa Cruz 95060

Fri., Dec. 11, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Holiday Membership Celebration

Museum of Art and History
McPherson Center
Front St. Santa Cruz 95060

January

Wed., Jan. 13, 1 – 3 pm

League Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front St. Santa Cruz 95060

Tues. Jan. 26, 1 -3 pm

National Program Planning Meeting

Home of Sandy Warren
150 Scenic St. Santa Cruz 95060